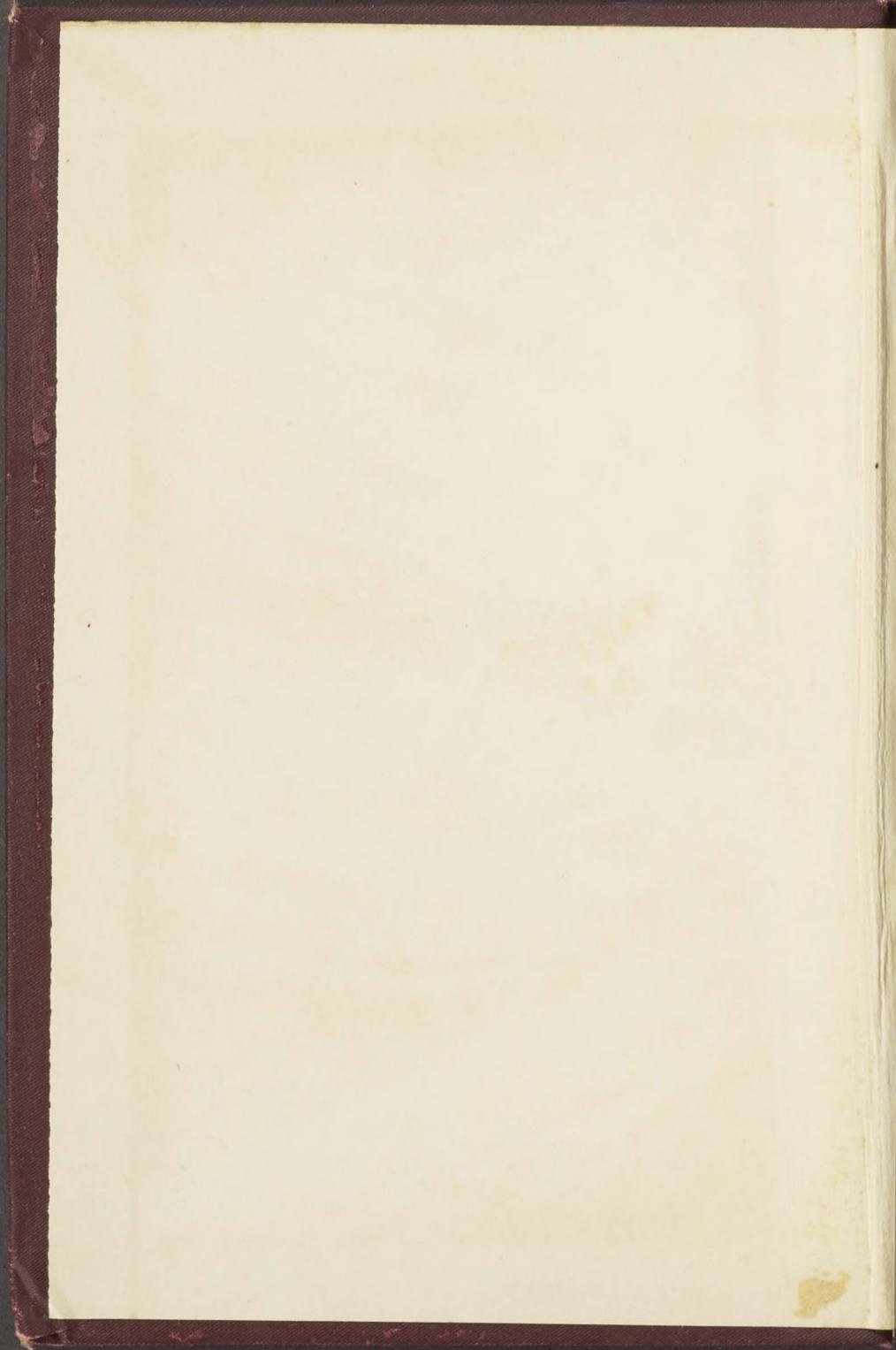
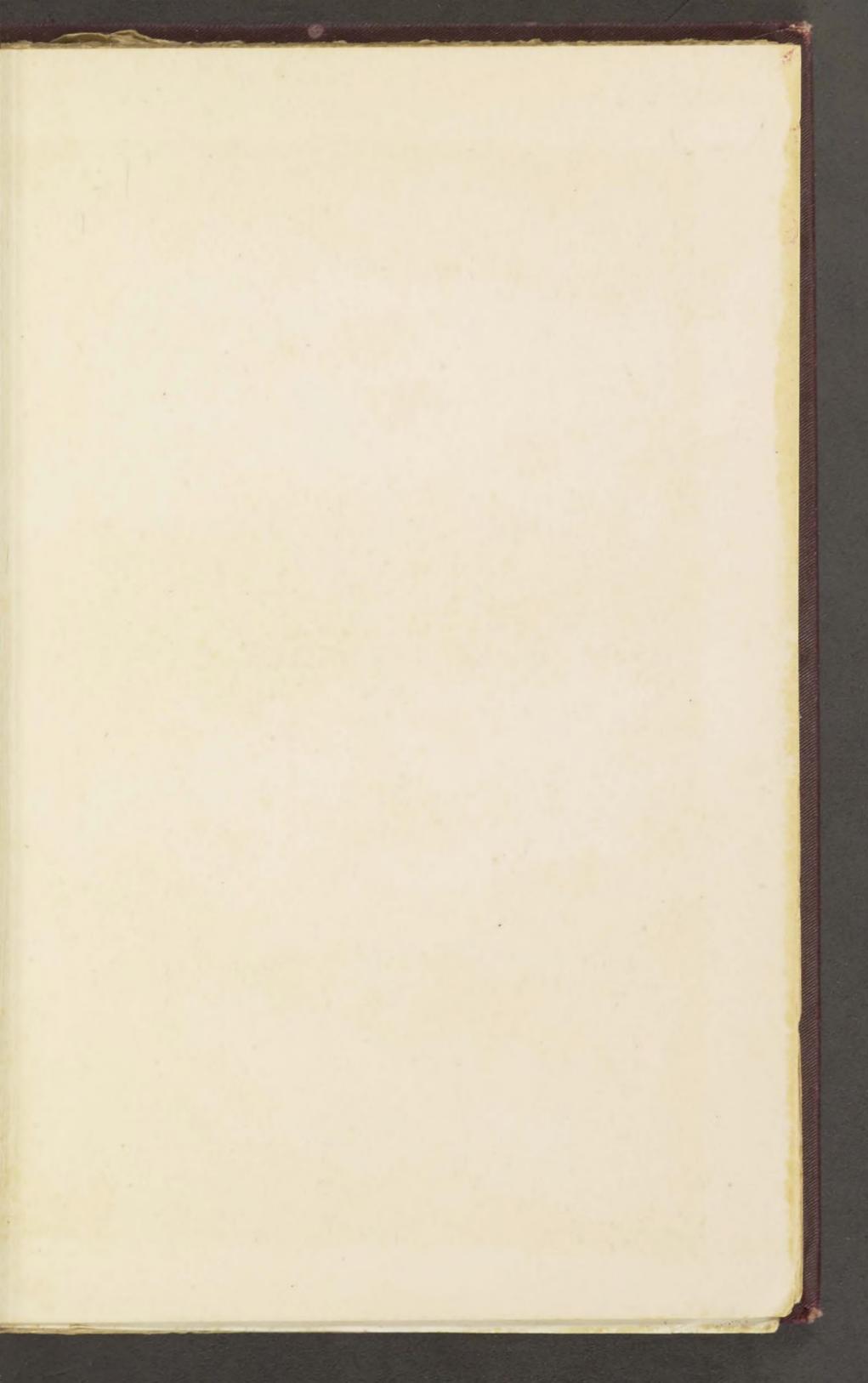
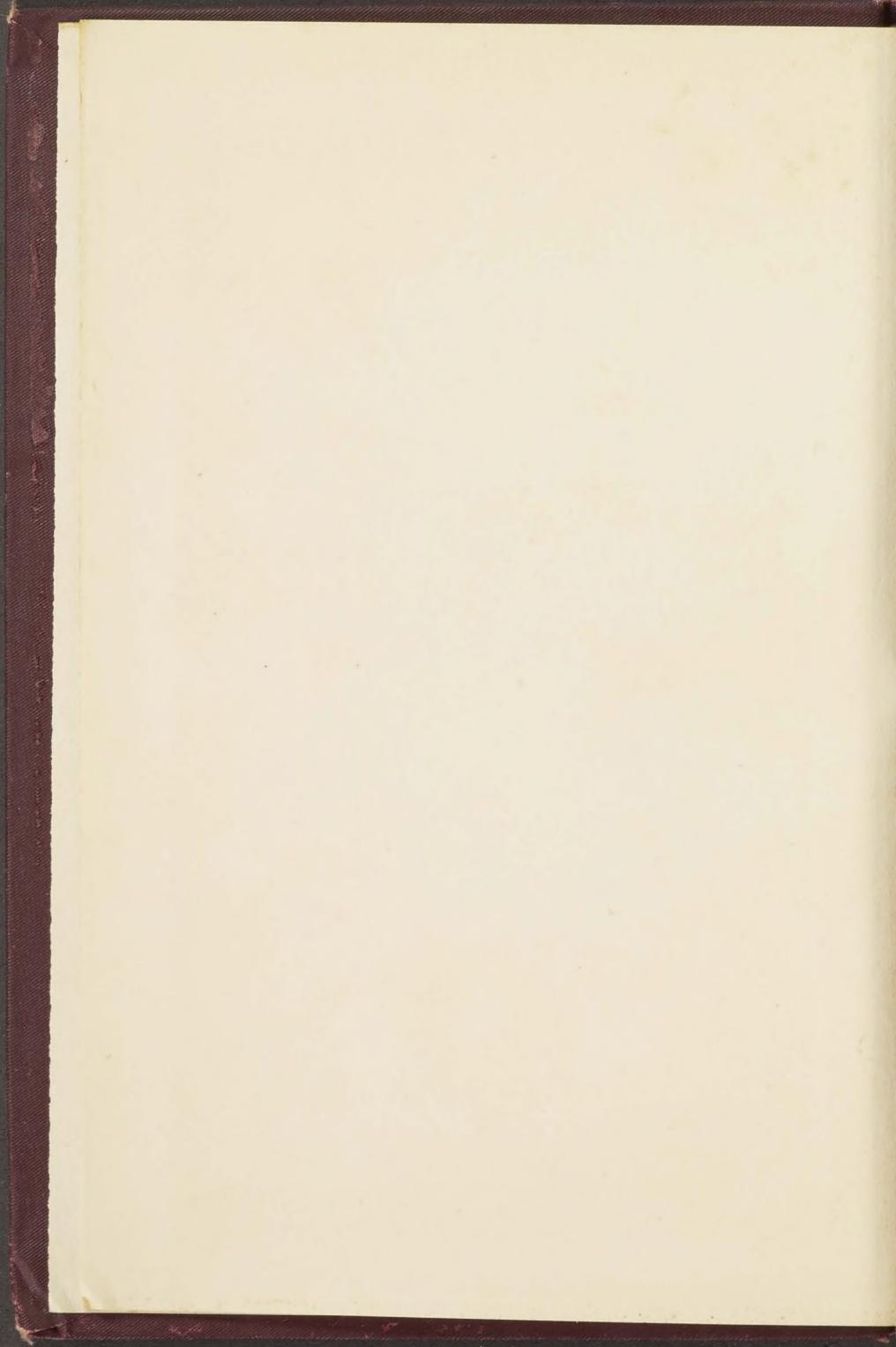


CHAFFERS'
HANDBOOK TO
HALL MARKS
ON GOLD & SILVER
PLATE, BY
C·A·MARKHAM

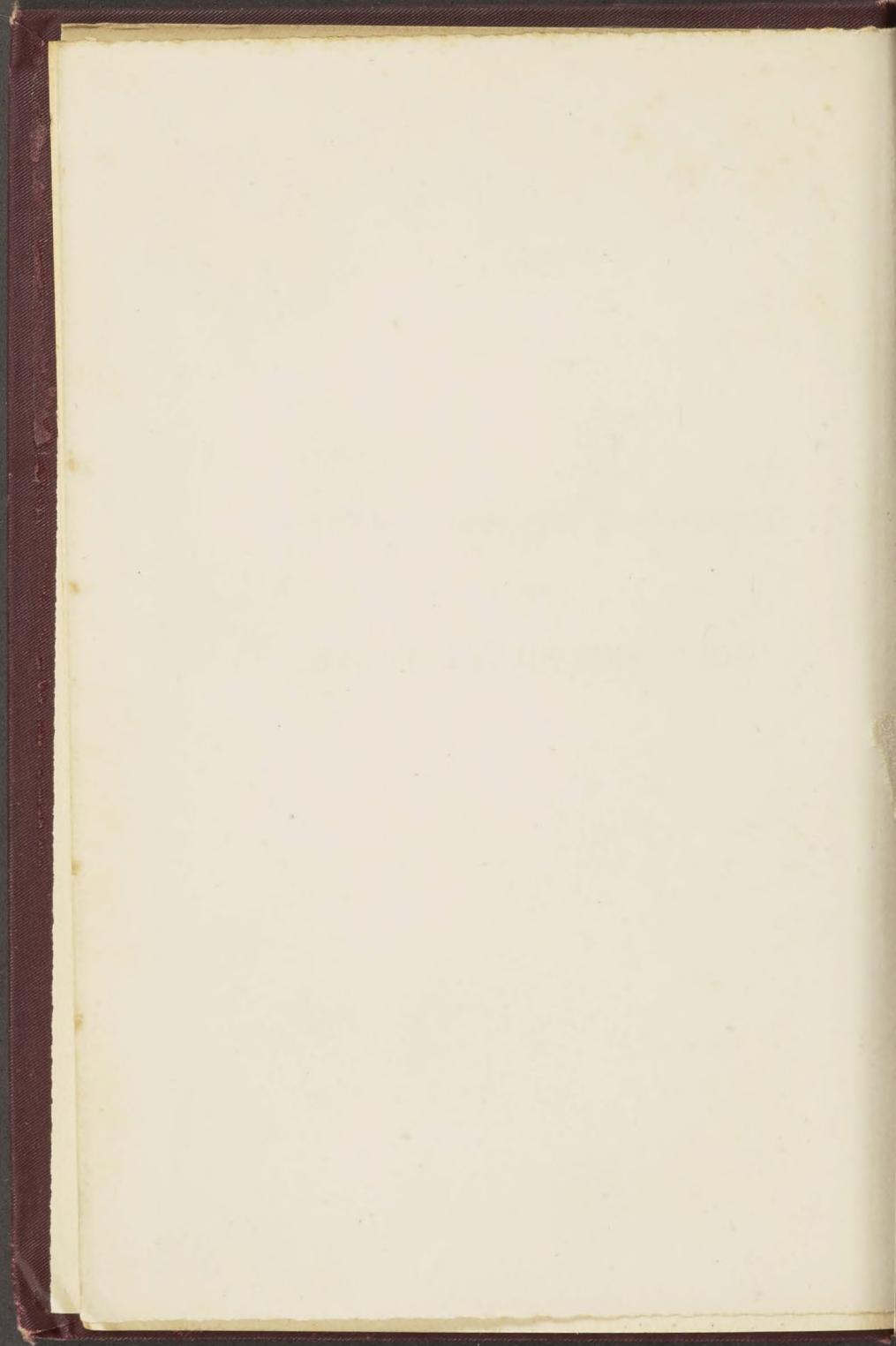
REEVES & TURNER

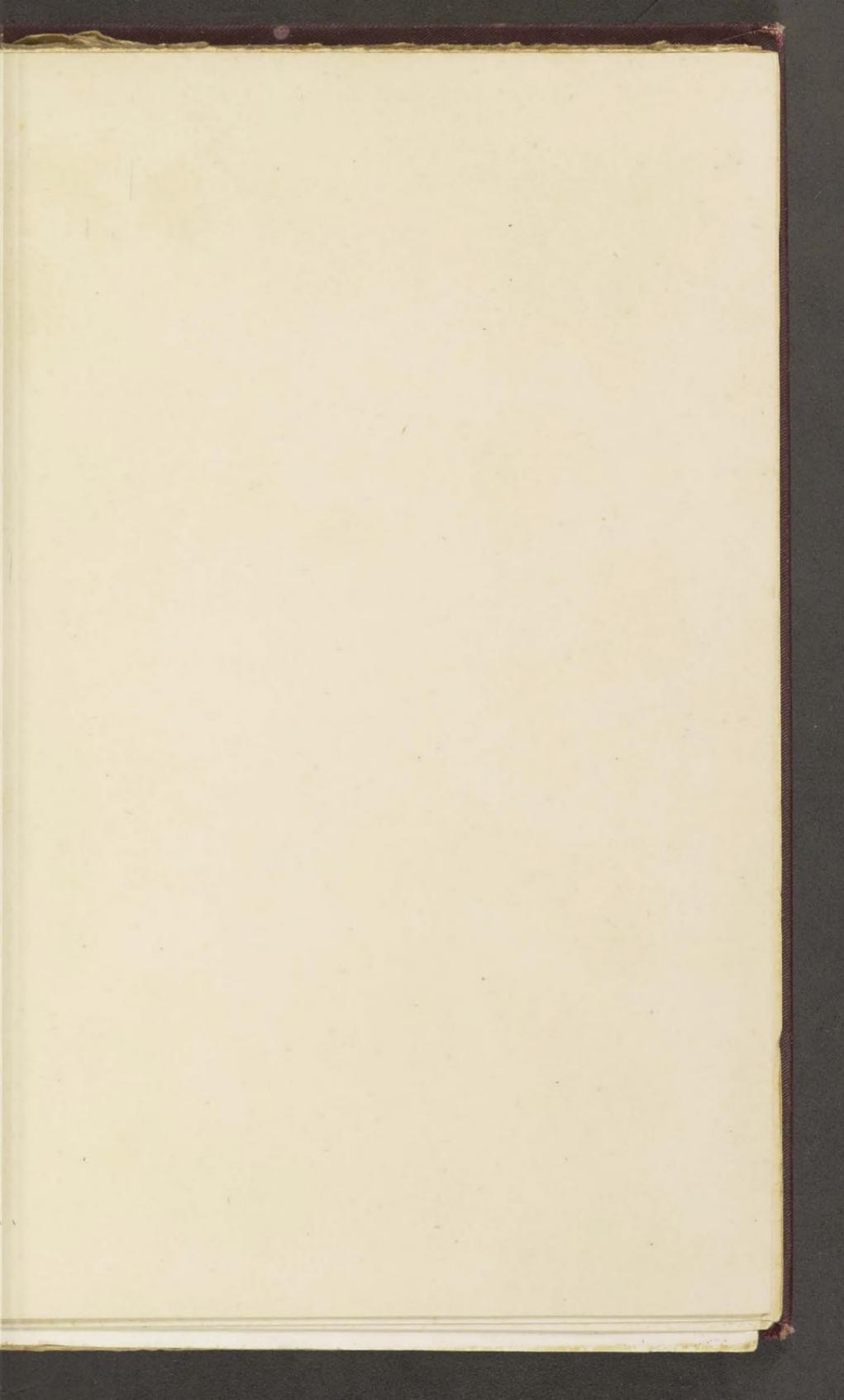


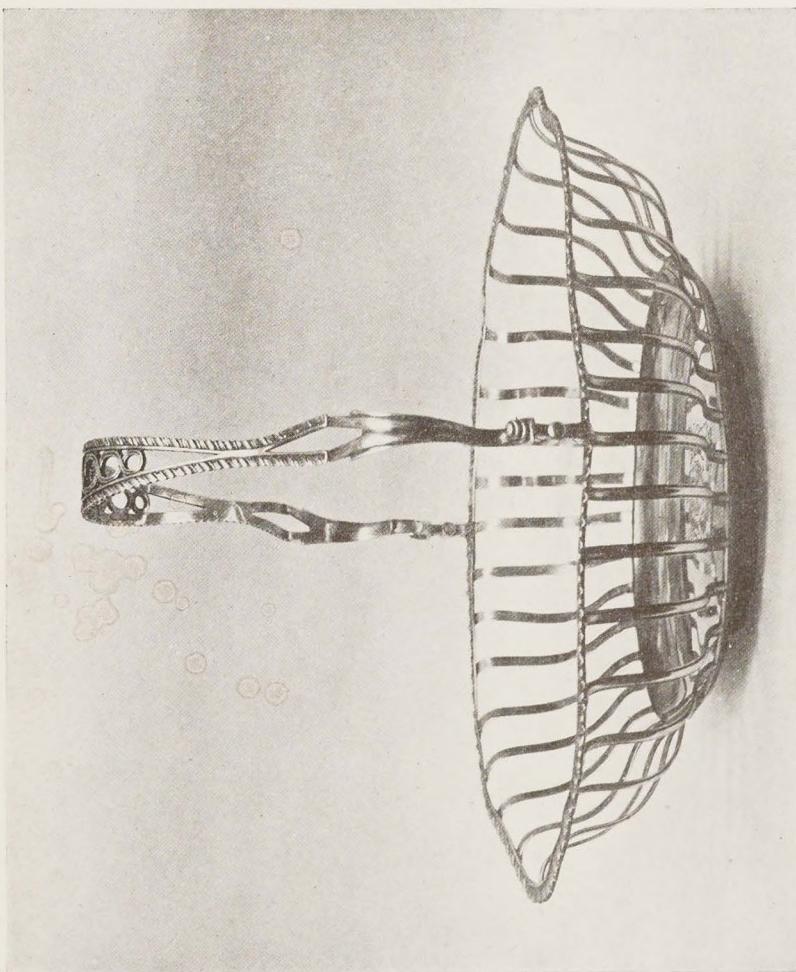




HANDBOOK TO HALL MARKS
ON
GOLD AND SILVER PLATE.







Cake Basket.
Chester Hall Marks for 1865-6. In the possession of the Chester Assay Office.

SIVKANKAS

J.S.L.C.

ET2030790

CHAFFERS' HANDBOOK TO
HALL MARKS
ON
GOLD & SILVER PLATE

WITH REVISED TABLES OF THE ANNUAL DATE LETTERS
EMPLOYED IN THE ASSAY OFFICES OF ENGLAND,
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

FIFTH EDITION, EDITED AND EXTENDED WITH THE ADDITION OF
SOME 82 DATE LETTERS AND MARKS BY

MAJOR C. A. MARKHAM, F.S.A.,

Author of "Pewter Marks and Old Pewter Ware," "Handbook to Foreign Hall Marks other than French," etc. Editor of Chaffers's Large Work "Hall Marks on Gold and Silver Plate."

LONDON
REEVES AND TURNER.

MCMXXIV

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ἀληθής.

PREFACE
TO FIFTH EDITION.

THIS Handbook of Hall Marks, which was first issued in 1897, and republished later in an extended form in 1903, in 1907 and 1913, has now been again revised. Some eighty-two new marks have been added to this edition, thus bringing the various alphabets up to the present time.

Especial care has been taken with reference to the shape of the shield or other form enclosing the various marks and letters; and, it is believed that these marks are accurate and reliable. It is hoped that this little work will be useful to all those who require, in a convenient form, information respecting the marks on gold and silver, for the purpose of readily fixing the date and office of assay of any piece of plate.

Many of the letters included in the tables of London Assay Office letters were the copyright of the late Mr. W. J. Cripps, C.B., F.S.A., author of

"Old English Plate," and by the courtesy and express permission of his representatives they are used in this book.

Our thanks are due to the assay masters, who have so kindly furnished information, to enable us to complete the various alphabets.

The frontispiece is taken from a beautiful cake basket, made by Richard Richardson, and bearing the Chester hall marks for 1765-6. The two old spoons were made by Nathaniel Bullen, and stamped at Chester 1703-4. These three articles are in the possession of the Chester Assay Office. The gravy pot bears the London hall marks for 1786-7, and belongs to Major C. A. Markham. Inside this pot is a socket for holding a hot iron for keeping the gravy warm.

In the larger work, "Hall Marks on Gold and Silver Plate," royal octavo, to which this little volume is intended as an introductory handbook, will be found all the further information which collectors may desire on this subject. The latest edition of the larger work, the tenth, has been considerably enlarged, and contains a general introductory essay.

Additional information which may be of assistance for future editions of this handbook will be gladly welcomed.

C. A. M.

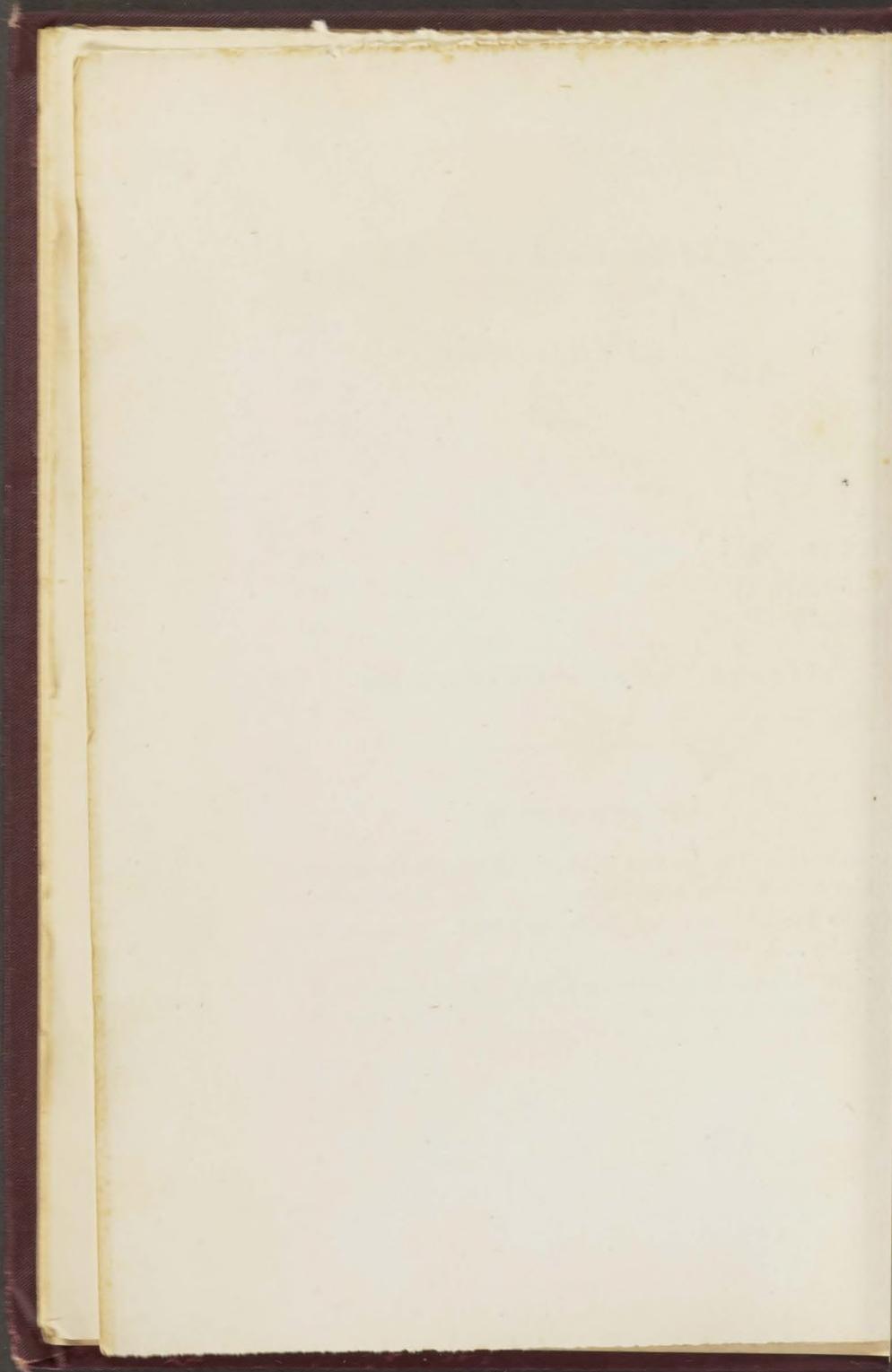
TABLES OF DATE LETTERS
OF ASSAY OFFICES.

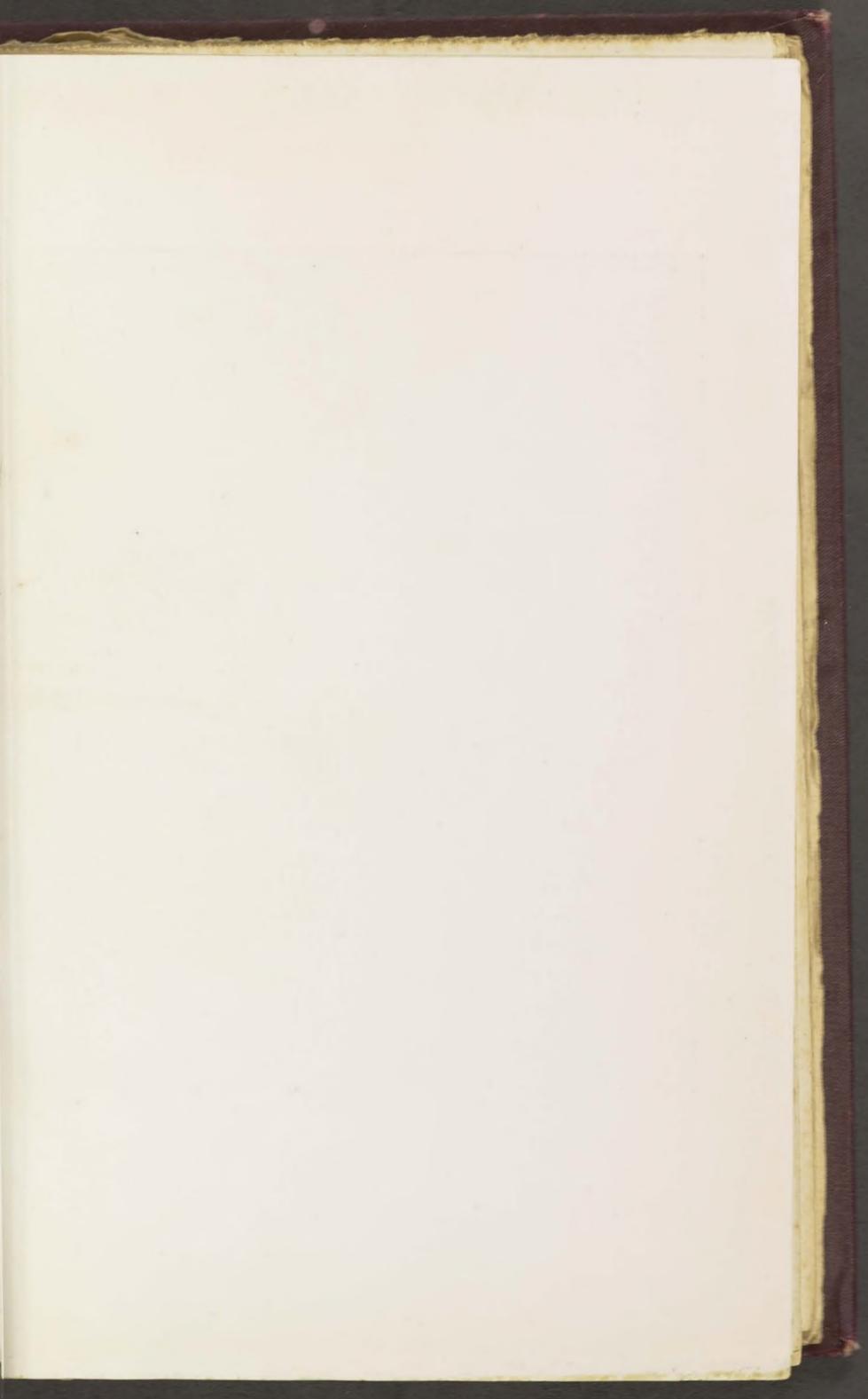
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ILLUSTRATIONS.

- CAKE BASKET. Chester Hall Marks for 1765-6. In the possession of the Chester Assay Office. *Frontispiece.*
- GRAVY POT. London Hall Marks for 1786-7. Belonging to Major C. A. Markham. *Facing page 1.*
- SPOONS. Chester Hall Marks for 1703-4. In the possession of the Chester Assay Office. *Facing page 49.*







GRAVY POT.

London Hall Marks for 1786-7.

Belonging to Major C. A. Markham.

England.

INTRODUCTION.

By far the most important of the English hall marks are those impressed in London. Probably out of every hundred pieces of silver plate in this country, ninety-nine were assayed at Goldsmiths' Hall. These marks are therefore first considered.

Before proceeding to notice these marks in detail, however, we have placed a chronological table showing at a glance the different times at which the marks were introduced throughout England; or such of them as were adopted in conformity with an express enactment.

Following this, we have a table showing the marks at present in use at all assay offices in the United Kingdom and Ireland. And a similar table showing the marks used in 1701-2.

Such notes on the several stamps are added, as are deemed necessary to enable those using the tables, to follow the various changes that have taken place in the number and shape of the assay marks.

It will be noticed that in the various alphabets the sovereign's name appears at different times; the explanation being that the date of the commencement of the reign may be before or after the date of the change of the annual assay letter.

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF MARKS.

- 1300 (28 Edw. I.). Leopard's head.
- 1336 (Ordinance of the Goldsmiths' Company). 1. Leopard's head crowned. 2. Owners' or goldsmiths' mark. 3. Assayer's mark, or variable letter.
- 1379 (2 Rich. II.). 1. Goldsmith's, "his own proper mark." 2. "Mark of the city or borough." 3. Assayer's mark, "appointed by the King."
- 1423 (2 Henry VI.). "Touch of the Leopard's head," and "Mark or touch of the workman."
- 1477 (17 Edw. IV.). "Leopard's head crowned," and "Mark of the worker." Standard of of 18-karat gold.
- 1573 (15 Eliz.). Standard of 22-karat gold revived.
- 1576 (18 Eliz.). 1. "The goldsmith to set his mark thereon." 2. "Touch of the leopard's head crowned," and "marked by the wardens."
- 1597 (Minutes of Goldsmiths' Company). "Her Majesty's Lion," "Alphabetical mark approved," and "Leopard's head, limited by statute."
- 1675 (Goldsmiths' order). "Lion," and "Leopard's head crowned, or one of them."
- 1697-8 (8 & 9 Will. III.). New standard of silver. "Lion's head erased; Figure of Britannia and the maker's mark, being the two first letters of his surname."
- 1700-1 (12 Will. III.). York, Exeter, Bristol, Chester, and Norwich appointed to assay

silver plate, and stamp it with the marks of the lion's head erased and Britannia, and, in addition to the marks of their cities, a variable mark or letter in Roman character.

- 1701 (1 Anne). Newcastle added to the other cities for assaying and stamping plate.
- 1719 (6 Geo. I.). Old standard restored. The lion, leopard's head, maker's mark, and date mark, but both standards were allowed by this Act simultaneously, varying the respective marks.
- 1739 (12 Geo. II.). Goldsmiths' mark, "the initials of his Christian and surname."
- 1773 (13 Geo. III.). Birmingham and Sheffield appointed for assaying and stamping silver plate.
- 1784 (24 Geo. III.). Duty mark of the King's head, and drawback stamp of Britannia.
- 1785 (25 Geo. III.). Drawback stamp of Britannia, discontinued.
- 1798 (38 Geo. III.). Standard of 18-karat gold marked with a crown and 18.
- 1824 (5 Geo. IV.). Birmingham empowered to stamp gold.
- 1844 (7 & 8 Vict.). Gold of 22 karats to be stamped with a crown and 22, instead of the lion passant.
- 1854 (17 & 18 Vict.). Reduced standards of gold to be stamped: 15.625—12.5—9.375—for gold of 15, 12, and 9 karats, but without the crown and King's head.
- 1876 Foreign plate, when assayed, to be marked, in addition to the usual marks of the Hall, with the letter F in an oval escutcheon.
- 1890 (54 Vict.). The duty of 1s. 6d. per ounce on silver plate abolished, and the stamp of the Queen's head, duty mark, discontinued.

- 1904 (4 Edw. VII.). Foreign plate to be assayed, marked and stamped, in such manner as His Majesty might determine by Order in Council.
- 1904 (24th October, 1904). Order in Council describing the marks to be stamped on foreign plate.
- 1906 (15th May, 1906). Similar Order in Council describing a different set of marks to be stamped on foreign plate.

TABLE OF MARKS.

TABLE OF MARKS used in 1924 at the Assay Offices in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Assay Town.	Description.	1. Quality.	2. Standard.	3. Assay Town.	4. Date.	5. Maker.
LONDON. Established 14th Century.	Gold 22 karat. " 18 " " 15 " " 12 " " 9 " " Silver O.S. N.S. "	22 18 15.625 12.5 9.375 Nil Nil	Crown Crown Nil Nil Nil Lion passant Britannia	Leopard's head without a crown Leopard's head Leopard's head Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Letter	Initials
BIRMINGHAM. Established 1773.	Gold 22 karat. " 18 " " 15 " " 12 " " 9 " " Silver O.S. N.S. "	22 18 15.625 12.5 9.375 Nil Nil	Crown Crown Nil Nil Nil Lion passant Britannia	Anchor Anchor Anchor Anchor Anchor Anchor	Letter	Initials
CHESTER. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 karat. " 18 " " 15 " " 12 " " 9 " " Silver O.S. N.S. "	22 18 15.625 12.5 9.375 Nil Nil	Crown Crown Nil Nil Nil Lion passant Britannia	Sword and 3 sheaves Sword and 3 sheaves	Letter	Initials

TABLE OF MARKS.

7

SHEFFIELD. Established 1773.	Silver O.S. " N.S.	Nil Nil	Lion passant Britannia	Crown Crown	Letter Letter	Initials Initials
EDINBURGH. Established 1457.	Gold 22 karat. " 18 " " 15 " " 12 " " 9 "	22 18 15 12 9	Thistle Thistle Nil Nil Nil	Castile Castile Castile Castile Castile	Letter Letter Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials
	Silver O.S. " N.S.	Britannia	Thistle Thistle	Castile	Letter Letter	Initials Initials
GLASGOW.* Established 1819.	Gold 22 karat. " 18 " " 15 " " 12 " " 9 "	22 18 15 12 9	Lion rampant Lion rampant Nil Nil Nil	Tree, fish, and bell Tree, fish, and bell Tree, fish, and bell Tree, fish, and bell Tree, fish, and bell	Letter Letter Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials
DUBLIN. Established 1638. No New Standard silver marked here.	Gold 22 karat. " 20 " " 18 " " 15 " " 12 " " 9 "	22 20 18 15.625 12.5 9.375	Lion rampant Lion rampant Lion rampant Lion rampant Lion rampant	Harp crowned Plume feathers Unicorn's head Nil Nil Harp crowned	Letter Letter Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials Initials Initials

* The Glasgow Assay Office has used the thistle as an additional optional mark since 1814 on silver and gold of eighteen and twenty-two karats.

TABLE OF MARKS used in 1701-2 at the Assay Offices in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Assay Town	Description.	1. Quality.	2. Standard.	3. Assay Town.	4. Date.	5. Maker.
LONDON. Established 14th Century.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. , N.S.	... ... ...	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	Leopard's head crowned Leopard's head crowned Lion's head erased	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
EXETER. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. , N.S.		Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	Castle Castle Castle	Initials Initials Initials
CHESTER. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. , N.S.		Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	3 demi lions and wheatsheaf ditto ditto	Initials Initials Initials
NEWCASTLE. Established 1702.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. , N.S.		Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	3 castles 3 castles 3 castles	Initials Initials Initials

TABLE OF MARKS.

9

YORK. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. " N.S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	5 lions 5 lions 5 lions on a cross	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
NORWICH. Re-established 1701.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. " N.S.	Leopard's head Leopard's head Lion's head erased	Lion passant Lion passant Britannia	Castle and lion Castle and lion Castle and lion	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
EDINBURGH. Re-established 1631.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S. " N.S.	Assay mark Assay mark Britannia	(Thistle in 1759)	Castle Castle Castle	Letter Letter Letter	Initials Initials Initials
DUBLIN. Re-established 1638.	Gold 22 karat Silver O.S.	... ...	Harp crowned Harp crowned	(Hibernia in 1730) ...	Letter Letter	Initials Initials

LONDON HALL MARKS.

THE marks on English silver stamped in London have never been more than five, and are reduced to four, although an additional mark is now placed on foreign silver assayed in England.

If we consider these marks in the order in which they were adopted, we find them in the following sequence:—

The Leopard's Head.	The Lion's Head erased, and Britannia.
The Maker's Mark.	The Sovereign's Head.
The Annual Letter.	The Mark for Foreign Silver.
The Lion Passant.	

I.—THE LEOPARD'S HEAD.

Taking first the London mark of the leopard's head, which was the earliest assay mark impressed on vessels of gold and silver, we give the forms of this stamp during the last five and a half centuries.

This mark used to be called sometimes the "Liberdes Hede," sometimes the "Liberd Heed," and sometimes the "Catte's Face." The stamp itself was known as the "punson," and it was most zealously guarded.

It is mentioned in the statute of 1300 as "une teste de leopart"; and in the charter granted in 1327 to the Goldsmiths' Company, the puncheon of the leopard's head was then said to have been of ancient use. At all events it is always found on assayed silver, from the middle of the fifteenth century.

The form of the head has changed at various times. At first the leopard's or lion's head crowned within

a circle was used, and this form continued in use until early in the sixteenth century.



In 1519 the leopard's head appears with a different crown, and within a shaped outline.



From that time until the end of the seventeenth century, the crowned leopard's head was placed within a line following the shape of the head and crown. The appearance of the lion at this time is noble, and he appears as the crowned king of beasts.



In 1678 the head was once again and for the last time placed in a circle.



In 1697 the Britannia standard was introduced, and the lion's head erased was used instead of the leopard's head.



The form of this stamp has never been altered, and is still used in the same shaped outline, for the higher standard, at the present time.

The old standard was revived in 1720, and the leopard's head crowned was again used, but the shields at this time were of very uncertain shape.



In 1739 the shield was altered to a shape similar to that of the date letter.



After 1763 the head was made smaller and placed in a plain shield.



In 1822 the leopard's head was deprived of its crown, and denuded of its mane and beard—a great change from the bold front presented in the old punches; and it has ever since looked more like a half-starved cat than a lion.



Indeed, from the earliest times until 1896, this mark has been constantly changed, and each change has been for the worse.

The leopard's head of the present cycle, adopted in 1896, however, certainly is a great improvement, though the shield may not meet with universal approbation.



II.—THE MAKER'S MARK.

This mark was first made compulsory in 1363, although it was no doubt used before that time. The early workers almost invariably employed a symbol or emblem, such as an animal, fish, crown, star, or rose. It was ordered to be "a mark of the goldsmith known by the surveyor." In 1379, "Every goldsmith shall have his own proper mark upon the work." In 1433, "The mark or sign of the worker." This mark was frequently a single letter, and frequently two letters for the Christian or surname of the maker. In 1675, the Goldsmiths' order enjoins that "the plate workers shall bring their marks to Goldsmiths' Hall, and there strike the same in a table kept in the Assay Office, and likewise enter their names and places of habitation in a book there kept for that purpose, whereby the persons and their marks may be known unto the wardens of the said company." In accordance with the Act of 1697-8 the maker used the first two letters of his surname in lieu of his initials. This enactment compelled a great number of makers to obtain new punches; but in 1720, when this Act was repealed, many makers returned to their former marks. The matter was

settled once and for all by the statute of 1739, which directed the makers to destroy their existing punches, and substitute the initials of their Christian and surnames, of entirely different types from those before used.

Sometimes a small mark, such as a cross, star, etc., is found near the maker's mark; it is that of the workman, for the purpose of tracing the work to the actual maker thereof; in large manufactories some such check is indispensable.

A list of gold and silver smiths, with their names, addresses, and dates of entry at the Hall, will be found in "HALL MARKS ON GOLD AND SILVER PLATE." Tenth edition, 1922. *Reeves and Turner.*

III.—DATE MARK.

A letter of the alphabet. This was the assayer's mark, and was introduced in 1478, and since that time a date letter has been regularly used. The various alphabets, each composed of twenty letters, have constantly succeeded each other, different characters having been used at different times. At first the letters were enclosed in outlines following the shape of the letters; but since 1560 the letters have been enclosed in heraldic shields of various forms. Previous to the Restoration, the annual letter was changed on St. Dunstan's Day (19th May) when the new wardens were elected. Since 1660 the assay year commences on the 30th May, so that each letter serves for the two halves of two years. The letters J. W. X. Y. Z. are always omitted.

IV.—THE STANDARD MARK.

The standard mark of the lion passant has been used on all standard gold, and sterling silver, from

1545, until the present time, except from 1696 until 1720. The first mention of the lion passant is in the records of the Goldsmiths' Company in May, 1597, it is there called "Her Majesty's Lion." It is not referred to in any statute until 1675.

The following representations of the lion passant are of those used by the Goldsmiths' Company; the provincial marks vary slightly from those employed in London.

The lion is always represented as passant guardant, and during the first few years was life-like, crowned, and enclosed in a shaped outline.

From 1545
until 1548:—



From 1548
until 1558:—



From 1558
until 1678:—



From 1678
until 1697:—



The standard of silver was raised, and the mark of the lion passant was changed to that of "the figure of a woman commonly called Britannia," on the 25th March, 1697.



This form of stamp is still used at the present time for the higher standard.

In 1720 the old standard was again allowed and the lion passant was again used. Between 1720 and 1739 the lion was placed in a rectangle:—



From 1739 until 1756 the shaped outline was again used:—



The marks at this period are somewhat uncertain in form. In 1784 the lion was enclosed in an ellipse:—



From about this time until 1896 the lion was placed in a regular shield:—



In 1896 a new form of shield was introduced, having three lobes above and the same number below.



There are six legal standards for gold and two for silver, as follows:—

GOLD.

22 karats = 917 millims.	15 karats = 625 millims.
20 " = 834 " (Dublin only).	12 " = 500 "
18 " = 750 "	9 " = 375 "

SILVER.

11 oz. 2 dwts. = 925 millims.	11 oz 10 dwts. = 959 millims
-------------------------------	------------------------------

FOR GOLD OF THE OLD STANDARD OF 22 KARATS, and sterling silver of 11 oz. 2 dwts., the mark was a lion passant. Previous to 1845, there was no distinctive mark between standard gold and sterling silver. But in that year for gold, the lion was omitted and the quality in karats and a crown substituted.

FOR GOLD OF 18 KARATS, a crown and the figures 18, instead of the lion passant (38 Geo. III, 1798).

FOR GOLD OF 22 KARATS (or the old standard) a crown and the figures 22, instead of the lion passant (7 & 8 Vict. 1844).

FOR GOLD MANUFACTURES OF THE REDUCED STANDARD (17 & 18 Vict., 1854), the leopard's head, date letter, and the numerals.

15 karats:	15.625	on separate stamps.
12 "	12.5	" "
9 "	9.375	" "

The numerals on these punches are to express, decimally, the quantity of pure gold in the article so marked, thus, pure gold being 24 karats.

15 karats $\frac{15}{24} = \frac{5}{8} = 625$ parts or millims in 1000.

12 , , $\frac{12}{24} = \frac{1}{2} = 500$, , "

9 , , $\frac{9}{24} = \frac{3}{8} = 375$, , "

FOR SILVER OF THE NEW STANDARD OF 11 OZ. 10 DWTS. the marks are, a figure of Britannia and the lion's head erased, instead of the lion passant and leopard's head (8 Will. III, 1697).

THE LION'S HEAD ERASED, AND FIGURE OF BRITANNIA.

When the standard for silver was raised in 1697, it was enacted that in lieu of the leopard's head and lion passant, the assay marks should be the figure of a lion's head erased, and the figure of a woman commonly called Britannia. This higher standard with these marks continued to be compulsory until 1720; when the old standard was again allowed, with the old marks. The higher standard is still perfectly legal, and when used is denoted by the lion's head erased, and the figure of Britannia.

V.—THE SOVEREIGN'S HEAD.

The head in profile of the reigning sovereign. This mark indicated the payment of the duty, and was impressed at the Assay Offices on every manufactured article of standard gold and silver that was liable to the duty, after payment to the officers of the Goldsmith's Company, who were the appointed receivers.

After the passing of the Duty Act (24 Geo. III, c. 53), which took effect on St. Dunstan's Day (30th May), 1784, the duty stamp of the *King's head in-cuse* was used for a short period. We find it in

conjunction with the letter **i** of 1784, and also with the letter **k** of 1785. The form being as follows :—



The head of George III is in an ellipse and is turned to the right :—



The reign of King George III ended 23rd January, 1820.

George the Fourth's head is also turned to the right for the silver mark, though he is turned to the left on his coins :—



January 29, 1820 to June 26, 1831.

The next sovereign, William the Fourth, was turned to the right in a similar manner :—



June 26, 1830 to June 20, 1837.

The head of Queen Victoria was turned to the left :—



June 20, 1837 to 1890.

The duty imposed in 1784, was—on gold, 8s. per oz.; on silver, 6d. per oz. In 1797, gold, 8s. per oz.; silver, 1s. per oz. In 1804, gold, 16s. per oz.; silver, 1s. 3d. per oz. In 1815, gold 17s. per oz.; silver, 1s. 6d. per oz.; in addition to the smith's licence.

Both the *crown* and *duty mark* of the sovereign's head were omitted on the three lower standards, and although they paid the same duty as the higher standards, there was no indication of it on the stamps.

The duty on silver was abolished in 1890, and the sovereign's head consequently omitted.

VI.—THE MARK FOR FOREIGN PLATE. THE LETTER F.

In 1876 it was enacted by 39 & 40 Victoria, cap. 35, that all gold and silver plate imported from foreign parts, which should be sent to an assay office in the United Kingdom to be assayed and stamped, should be marked in addition to the marks used at such assay office, with the mark of the letter F in an oval escutcheon.

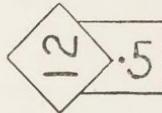
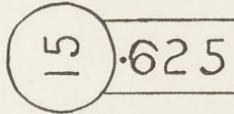
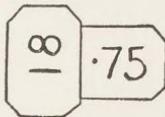
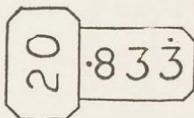
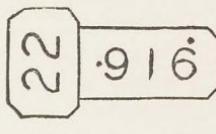


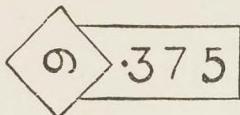
This mark continued to be used on foreign plate until 1904, when an act was passed, directing that

plate brought from a foreign part to an assay office to be assayed, stamped or marked should be marked in such manner as His Majesty might by Order in Council determine.

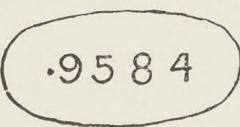
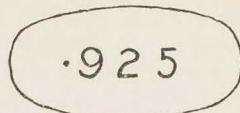
By an Order in Council made on the 24th October, 1904, and published in the London Gazette on the 28th of the same month, further regulations were made for the assaying of foreign gold and silver, and illustrations were given of such hall marks as should be particular to each assay office. The standard marks to be used in all offices are as follows:—

On foreign gold plate, the carat value of the gold, together with the carat value for the six standard:—





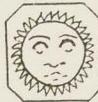
On foreign silver plate for the two standards:—



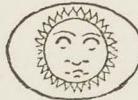
Different stamps were to be used by each assay authority, so that it might be known at which office foreign plate was assayed.

The London office mark for gold plate was:—

(Phœbus.)



And for silver:—



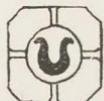
The marks peculiar to each of the other authorities, will be mentioned in their proper places.

All these stamps continued to be used until 1906, when by an Order in Council, made on the 11th May, 1906, and published in the London Gazette on

the 15th of the same month further regulations were made in relation to the assaying of foreign plate. It was also found expedient to vary the marks to be used by the assay authorities of London, Sheffield, Glasgow and Dublin. The marks for Birmingham, Chester and Edinburgh were not altered, nor were the standard marks changed.

Under this order the London office mark for foreign plate for gold was to be:—

(Sign of Constellation Leo.)

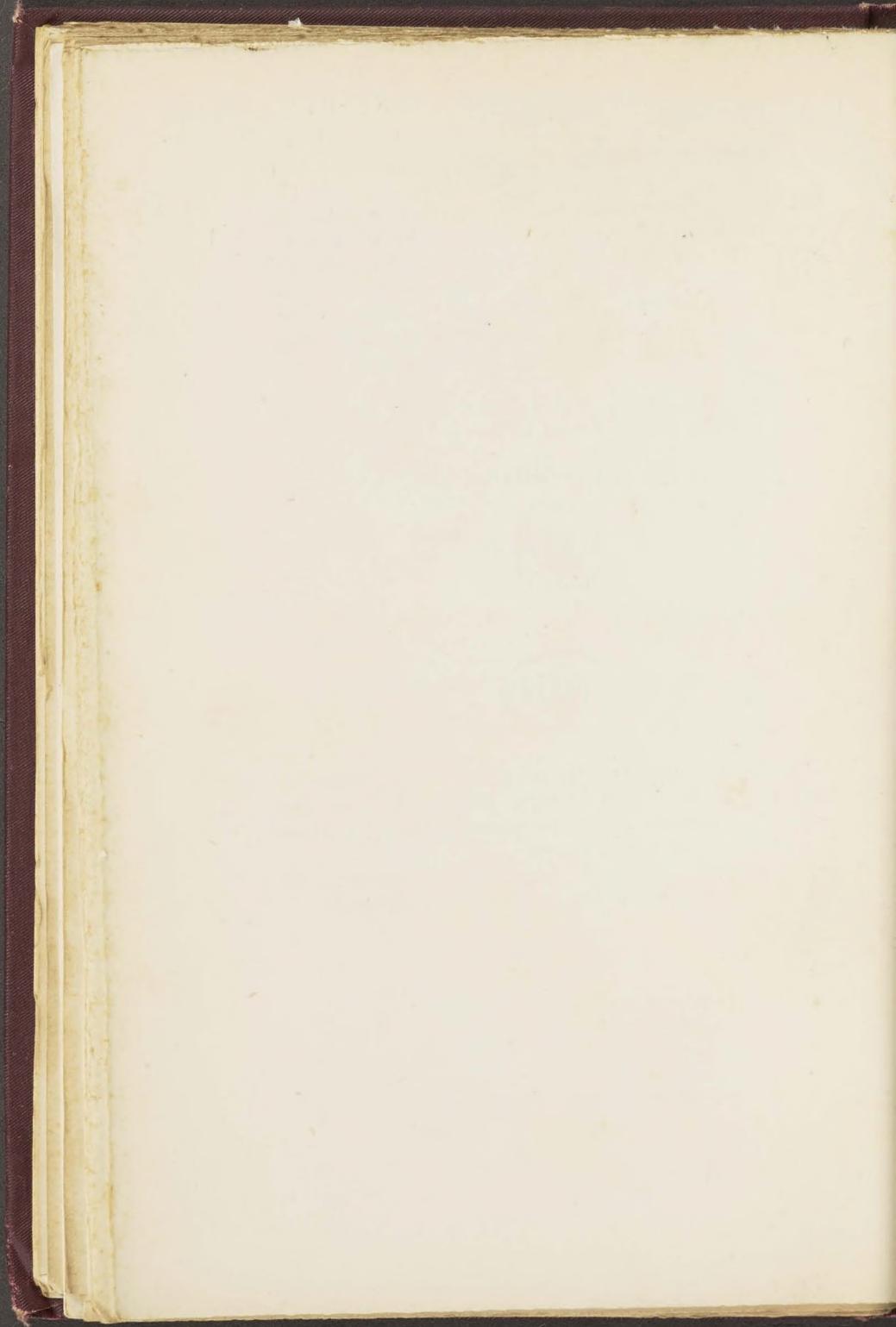


And for silver:—



Probably a less artistic or worse drawn series of hall marks have never been produced, than the series for foreign plate, as promulgated by these two orders, and here redrawn.

Our thanks are due to Sir Walter Prideaux, and Mr. H. W. Robinson for much kind assistance.



LONDON ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. Lombardic	CYCLE 2. BLACK LETTER SMALL.	CYCLE 3. Lombardic Capitals.	CYCLE 4. Roman Capitals.
HENRY VII. & VIII.		HENRY VIII.—MARY.	
EDWARD IV., RICH. III., & HENRY VII.			
1478-9	1498-9	1518-9	1538-9
1479-80	1499-00	1519-20	1539-40
1480-1	1500-1	1520-1	1540-1
1481-2	1501-2	1521-2	1541-2
1482-3	1502-3	1522-3	1542-3
Edward V.			
1483-4		1523-4	1543-4
Richard III.			
1484-5		1524-5	1544-5
1485-6		1525-6	1545-6
Henry VII.			
1486-7		1526-7	1546-7
1487-8		1527-8	Edward VI. 1547-8

LONDON DATE LETTERS.

27

	1488-9		1508-9 Henry VIII.		1528-9				
	1489-90		1509-10		1529-30				
	1490-1		1510-1		1530-1				
	1491-2		1511-2		1531-2				
	1492-3		1512-3		1532-3				
	1493-4		1513-4		1533-4				
	1494-5		1514-5		1534-5				
	1495-6		1515-6		1535-6				
	1496-7		1516-7		1536-7				
	1497-8		1517-8		1537-8				
THREE MARKS.		THREE MARKS.		THREE MARKS.					
1. Leopard's Head, crowned. 2. Date Letter. [In 1477. 3. Maker's Mark.		1. Leopard's Head, crowned. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark.		1. Leopard's Head, crowned. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark.					
No lion passant. No regular shield.		No lion passant. No regular shield.		No lion passant. No regular shield.					
FOUR MARKS.									
1. Leopard's Head, crowned. 2. Date Letter. 3. Maker's Mark. 4. The lion passant first used No escutcheons.									

* This letter being accompanied by the lion passant on plate may be distinguished from the S of 1535, when there were only three marks.

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 5. BLACK LETTER SMALL.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 7. LOMBARDIC CAPITALS.		CYCLE 8. SMALL TRAILES.		CYCLE 9. COURT HAND.																		
MARY.—ELIZ.		ELIZ.—H.		ELIZ. & JAMES I.	JAMES I.			CHAS. I. & CHAS. I.	CHAS. I. & COMMONWEALTH.																	
1558-9 Elizabeth.																										
1559-60																										
1560-1																										
1561-2																										
1562-3																										
1563-4																										
1564-5																										
1565-6																										
1566-7																										
1567-8																										
						1568-9		1588-9		1589-90		1590-1		1591-2		1592-3		1593-4		1594-5		1595-6		1596-7		1597-8
	1569-70		1569-70		1570-1		1571-2		1572-3		1573-4		1574-5		1575-6		1576-7		1577-8							
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
																										
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LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

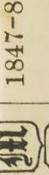
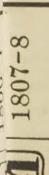
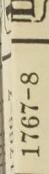
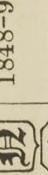
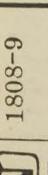
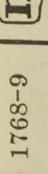
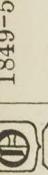
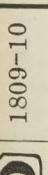
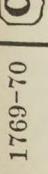
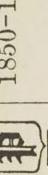
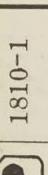
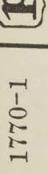
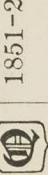
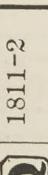
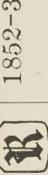
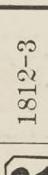
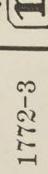
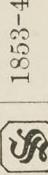
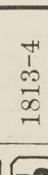
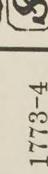
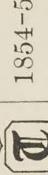
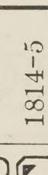
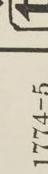
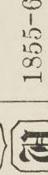
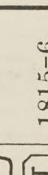
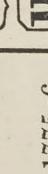
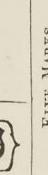
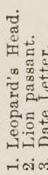
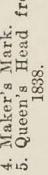
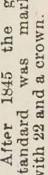
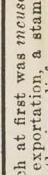
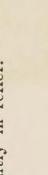
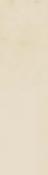
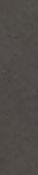
CYCLE 10. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.	CYCLE 11. BLACK LETTER SMALL.	CYCLE 12. COURT HAND.	CYCLE 13. ROMAN CAPITALS.	GEORGE I. & II.	CYCLE 14. ROMAN SMALL.
COMMONWEALTH & CHAS. II.	CHAS. II, JAS. II., WILL. & MARY & WILL. III.	WILL. III., ANNE & GEO. I.	MAR. TO MAY. 1697	A B C D E F G H I K L	a b c d e f g h i k l
1658-9	1678-9	1679-80	1697-8	1716-7	1736-7
1659-60 Charles II.	1680-1	1698-9	1698-9	1717-8	1737-8
1660-1	1681-2	1682-3	1699-00	1718-9	1738-9
1661-2	1683-4	1684-5 James II.	1700-1	1719-20	1739-40
1662-3	1685-6	1685-6	1701-2	1720-1	1740-1
1663-4	1686-7	1686-7	1702-3 Anne,	1721-2	1741-2
1664-5	1687-8	1687-8	1703-4	1722-3	1742-3
1665-6	1688-9	1688-9	1704-5	1723-4	1743-4
1666-7	1689-0	1689-0	1705-6	1724-5	1744-5
1667-8	1690-1	1690-1	1706-7	1725-6	1745-6
1668-9	1691-2	1691-2	1707-8	1726-7	1746-7

LONDON DATE LETTERS.

* This letter, towards the end of the official year, appears to have been injured, as represented, but it is also seen quite perfect.
NOTE.—The two stamms of the leopard's head and the lion passant were, previous to 1673, placed in irregular shields, the border following the design; after that time the lord's head was placed in a symmetrical shield, and the lion in a distinct oblong with a few exceptions; from and after 1750 both punches had regular heraldic shields.

LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 15. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 16. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 17. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 18. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 19. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.	
GEORGE II. & III.		GEORGE III.		GEORGE III.		GEO. III., GEO. IV. & WILL. IV.		WILL. IV. & VICT.	
A	1756-7	a	1776-7	A	1796-7	a	1816-7	A	1836-7
B	1757-8	b	1777-8	B	1797-8	b	1817-8	B	1837-8
C	1758-9	c	1778-9	C	1798-9	c	1818-9	C	1838-9
D	1759-60	d	1779-80	D	1799-00	d	1819-20	D	1839-40
E	1760-1 George III.	e	1780-1	E	1800-1	e	1820-1	E	1840-1
F	1761-2	f	1781-2	F	1801-2	f	1821-2	F	1841-2
G	1762-3	g	1782-3	G	1802-3	g	1822-3	G	1842-3
H	1763-4	h	1783-4	H	1803-4	h	1823-4	H	1843-4
I	1764-5	i	*1784-5	I	1804-5	i	1824-5	I	1844-5
J	1765-6	k	1785-6	K	1805-6	j	1825-6	J	1845-6
L	1766-7	l	1786-7	L	1806-7	l	1826-7	L	1846-7

	1767-8		1787-8		1807-8		1847-8
	1768-9		1788-9		1808-9		1848-9
	1769-70		1789-90		1809-10		1827-8
	1770-1		1790-1		1810-1		1828-9
	1771-2		1791-2		1811-2		1829-30
	1772-3		1792-3		1812-3		1830-1
	1773-4		1793-4		1813-4		1831-2
	1774-5		1794-5		1814-5		1832-3
	1775-6		1795-6		1815-6		1833-4
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LONDON ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 20. BLACK LETTER SMALL.		CYCLE 21. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 22. ROMAN SMALL		CYCLE 23. BLACK LETTER SMALL.	
VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.		VICT. EDW. VII & GEO. V.		GEORGE V.	
A	1856-7	A	1876-7	a	1896-7	q	1916-7
B	1857-8	B	1877-8	b	1897-8	q	1917-8
C	1858-9	C	1878-9	c	1898-9	r	1918-9
D	1859-60	D	1879-80	d	1899-00	s	1919-20
E	1860-1	E	1880-1	e	1900-1	t	1920-1
F	1861-2	F	1881-2	f	1901-2	h	1921-2
G	1862-3	G	1882-3	g	Edward VII.	i	1922-3
H	1863-4	H	1883-4	h	1902-3	j	1923-4
I	1864-5	I	1884-5	i	1903-4	k	1924-5
K	1865-6	K	1885-6	k	1904-5	l	1905-6
L	1866-7	L	1886-7	l	1905-6	m	1906-7

	1867-8
	1868-9
	1869-70
	1870-1
	1871-2
	1872-3
	1873-4
	1874-5
	1875-6
	1887-8
	1888-9
	1889-90
	1890-1
	1891-2
	1892-3
	1893-4
	1894-5
	1895-6

FIVE MARKS.

1. Leopard's Head.
 2. Lion passant for silver.
 3. Date Letter.
 4. Maker's Mark.
 5. Queen's Head.
- For gold a crown and 22 or 18 according to standard.

Duty abolished on silver, 1890,
and Queen's head omitted.

FIVE MARKS.

1. Leopard's Head.
2. Lion passant.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

FOUR MARKS.

1. Leopard's Head.
2. Lion passant.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

NOTE.—Large and small sized punches are used to suit the plate to be stamped; so that from 1756 to the present day, the large stamps bear the letter in a shield as here indicated—the smaller ones have the letter in a square escutcheon, the base slightly convex but not pointed, and the upper corners cut off.

England.

PROVINCIAL ASSAY OFFICES.

THE seven towns appointed by the Act 2, Henry VI. (1423) were York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, Lincoln, Bristol, Coventry and Salisbury, where mints had already been established, and most of them had guilds or fraternities previously existing. The town marks of the three first have been identified, but as nothing is known of the "touches" or town marks of any of the remaining four, they probably did not avail themselves of the privilege of assaying and marking plate, or if they did, no traces have been discovered of their doings at that time or the marks they adopted.

By the Act 12 and 13 William III. (1700), York, Bristol, and Norwich and in 1701-2 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, were re-appointed, with the addition of Exeter and Chester, in which two last-named towns mints had then lately been appointed for recoining the silver moneys of the kingdom—Coventry, Salisbury, and Lincoln having then evidently ceased working.

THE HALL-MARKS OF ASSAY TOWNS.

1. LONDON. A leopard's head crowned (the ordinances of the Goldsmiths' Company of 1336, and subsequent Acts of Parliament). Since 1823 the leopard's head not crowned.
2. YORK. Five lions on a cross (discontinued).
3. EXETER. A castle with three towers (discontinued.)
4. CHESTER. Now the mark is a sword between three wheat-sheaves, but before 1779 the shield of the city arm was three demi-lions and a wheat-sheaf on a shield, and a small quartering above the sheaf.
5. NORWICH. A castle and lion passant (discontinued.)
6. NEWCASTLE. Three castles (discontinued.)
7. SHEFFIELD. A crown.
8. BIRMINGHAM. An anchor.

BARNSTABLE.

A maker, using the initials I. P., manufactured a little plate at this town in the middle of the seventeenth century.

BIRMINGHAM.

A.D. 1773. 13 GEORGE III., c. 52. This Act was passed for the appointment of Wardens and Assay Masters for assaying and stamping wrought silver plate in the towns of Sheffield and Birmingham. Silver goods "shall be marked as followeth; that is to say with the mark of the maker or worker thereof, which shall be the first letter of his Christian and surname; and also with the lion passant, and with the mark of the Company within whose Assay

Office such plate shall be assayed and marked, to denote the goodness thereof, and the place where the same was assayed and marked; and also with a distinct variable mark or letter, which letter or mark shall be annually changed upon the election of new wardens for each Company, to denote the year in which such plate is marked."

Sheffield and Birmingham verify their hall-marking at the London Mint, and the act requires that the Assay Master shall appear at the Mint annually and verify his proceedings, under a penalty of £200, and dismissal from the office for ever, which is not the case in the other Assay Offices of Chester, Edinburgh, or Dublin.

In the Parliamentary inquiry on the subject of Hall Marks and Plate in 1856, it appeared that no other offices but Birmingham and Sheffield had ever within living memory sent up their diet boxes to be tested, being only liable when required to do so.

In the Parliamentary inquiry of 1879, it was expressly urged that the whole of the Assay Offices should be placed under the direct supervision of the Mint, so that uniform standard of quality should be guaranteed.

At Birmingham the selection of the variable letter, which is directed to be changed with the annual election of the wardens in *July*, is not confided to any officers, but the custom has been to take the letters in alphabetical order.

A.D. 1824. 5 GEORGE IV. Power was given to the Company at Birmingham to assay gold as well as silver, and their marks are the same as London, except that the anchor is substituted for the leopard's head.

By the above-named Act of 1773, both the officers of Birmingham and Sheffield had jurisdiction to assay and mark all plate made within twenty miles of

those towns. By the 17 & 18 Victoria, cap. 96, all workers or dealers in plate were authorised to register their marks at any Assay Office legally established which they may select.

The following is the present form of the anchor, and of the lion passant, which is not guardant:—



The Birmingham Assay mark under the Order in Council of 1904 for foreign plate was for gold:—

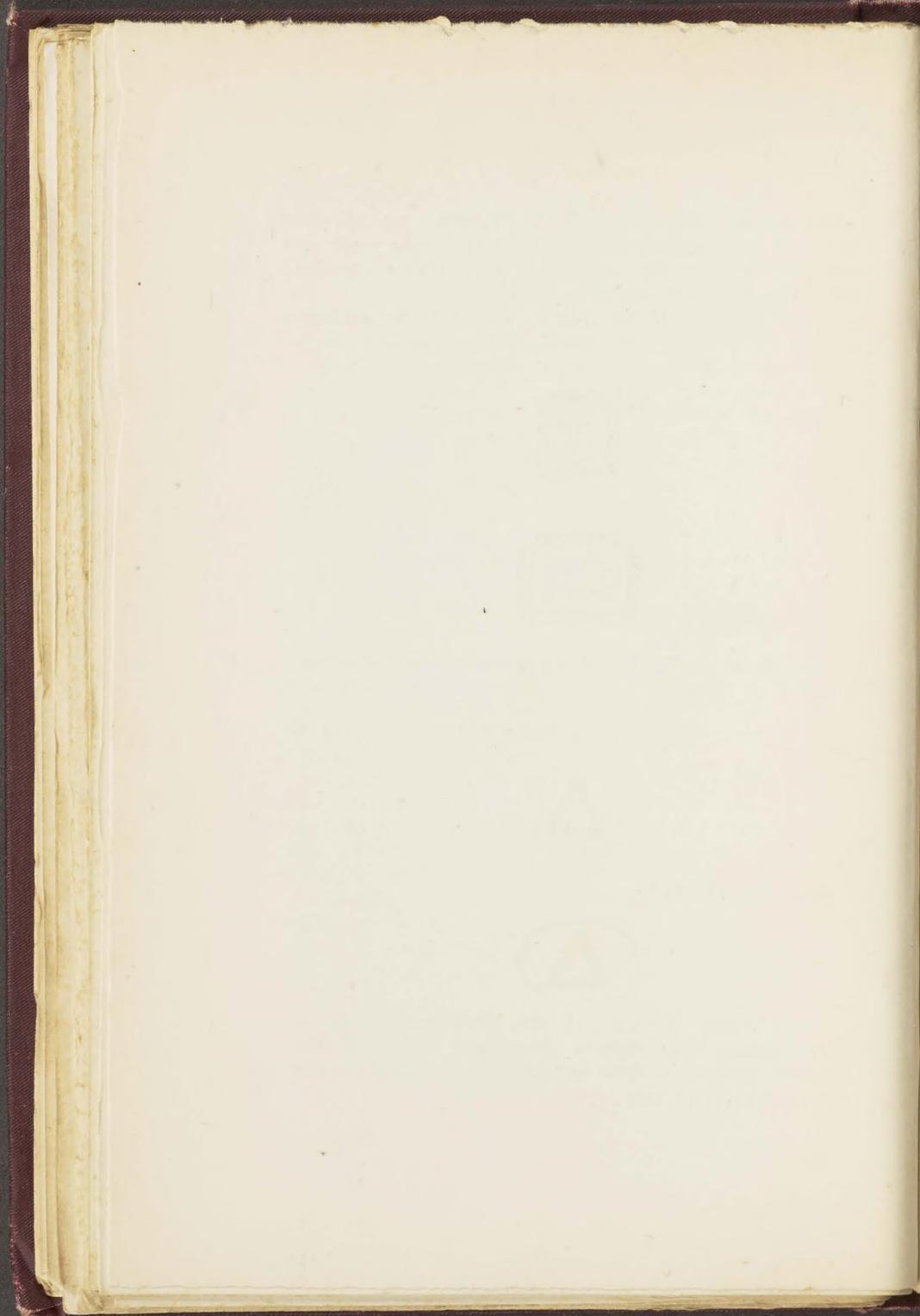
(Equilateral Triangle.)



And for silver:—



Mr. Arthur Westwood, the Assay Master at Birmingham, has kindly furnished us with impressions of the date letters, and standard marks, now used at this city.



BIRMINGHAM ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

BIRMINGHAM ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 3. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 4. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 5. BLACK LETTER SMALL.	
GEORGE III.		GEO. III. & IV.		GEORGE IV., WILL. IV. & VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.	
A	1773-4	a	1798-9	A	1824-5	A	1849-50	a	1875-6
B	1774-5	b	1799-00	B	1825-6	B	1850-1	b	1876-7
C	1775-6	c	1800-1	C	1826-7	C	1851-2	c	1877-8
D	1776-7	d	1801-2	D	1827-8	D	1852-3	d	1878-9
E	1777-8	e	1802-3	E	1828-9	E	1853-4	e	1879-80
F	1778-9	f	1803-4	F	1829-30 William IV.	F	1854-5	f	1880-1
G	1779-80	g	1804-5	G	1830-1	G	1855-6	g	1881-2
H	1780-1	h	1805-6	H	1831-2	H	1856-7	h	1882-3
I	1781-2	i	1806-7	I	1832-3	I	1857-8	i	1883-4
K	1782-3	j	1807-8	K	1833-4	J	1858-9	k	1884-5
L	1783-4	k	1808-9	L	1834-5	K	1859-60	l	1885-6
M	1784-5	l	1809-10	M	1835-6	L	1860-1	m	1886-7
N	1785-6	m	1810-1	N	1836-7 Victoria.	M	1861-2	n	1887-8
n	1811-2				1837-8	N	1862-3	n	1888-9

O	1786-7	P	1812-3	O	1838-9	P	1863-4	O	1889-90
P	1787-8	Q	1813-4	P	1839-40	Q	1864-5	P	1890-1
Q	1788-9	R	1814-5	Q	1840-1	R	1865-6	Q	1891-2
R	1789-90	S	1815-6	R	1841-2	S	1866-7	R	1892-3
S	1790-1	T	1816-7	S	1842-3	T	1867-8	T	1893-4
T	1791-2	U	1817-8	T	1843-4	U	1868-9	U	1894-5
U	1792-3	V	1818-9	U	1844-5	V	1869-70	U	1895-6
V	1793-4	W	1819-20	U	1845-6	V	1870-1	W	1896-7
W	1794-5	X	George IV.	W	1846-7	W	1871-2	X	1897-8
X	1795-6	Y	1820-1	X	1847-8	X	1872-3	Y	1898-9
Y	1796-7	Z	1821-2	Y	1848-9	Z	1873-4	Z	1899-00
Z	1797-8		1822-3		1874-5				
FIVE MARKS.					FIVE MARKS.				
1. Anchor.	1. Anchor.	2. Lion passant.	2. Lion passant.	3. Date Letter.	3. Date Letter.	4. Sovereign's Head.	4. Queen's Head.	5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.
2. Lion passant.	2. Lion passant.	3. Date Letter.	3. Date Letter.	4. Sovereign's Head.	4. Queen's Head.	5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.		
3. Date Letter.	3. Date Letter.	4. Sovereign's Head.	4. Sovereign's Head.	5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.				
4. Sovereign's Head.	4. Sovereign's Head.	5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.						
5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.								

NOTE.—For the New Standard of 11 oz. 10 dwts., a stamp of Britannia is used instead of the Lion passant.

FIVE MARKS.	FIVE MARKS.
1. Anchor.	1. Anchor.
2. Lion passant.	2. Lion passant.
3. Date Letter.	3. Date Letter.
4. Sovereign's Head.	4. Queen's Head.
5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.

Duty abolished and

from 1890.

Queen's Head omitted

from 1890.

FIVE MARKS.	FIVE MARKS.
1. Anchor.	1. Anchor.
2. Lion passant.	2. Lion passant.
3. Date Letter.	3. Date Letter.
4. Sovereign's Head.	4. Queen's Head.
5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.

Duty abolished and

from 1890.

Queen's Head omitted

from 1890.

BIRMINGHAM ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 6.

ROMAN SMALL.

VICTORIA, EDWARD VII & GEORGE V.

a	1900-1	f	1905-6	1	George V 1910-1	q	1915-6	V 1920-1
b	Edward VII 1901-2	g	1906-7	m	1911-2	r	1916-7	W 1921-2
c	1902-3	h	1907-8	n	1912-3	s	1917-8	X 1922-3
d	1903-4	i	1908-9	o	1913-4	t	1918-9	Y 1923-4
e	1904-5	k	1909-10	p	1914-5	u	1919-20	
FOUR MARKS.								

1. Anchor.
2. Lion passant.

3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

BRISTOL.

Bristol may, perhaps, have had an office, for there were several silversmiths there who afterwards sent their goods to Exeter to be assayed.

It is not, however, by any means certain that the right of assay was ever exercised at Bristol; although it was appointed as an assay town in 1423, and re-appointed in 1700. Indeed though we have enquired from a leading silversmith at Bristol, we have failed to trace any local silver.

There is a cup on a stem, ornamented with punched diamond pattern, which, from the inscription, appears to have been made in this town, although it bears no Hall-mark. It is late sixteenth century work:—

In the possession of
Sir A. H. Elton, Bart. { "From Mendep I was brought,
Out of a leden mine;
In Bristol I was wrought,
And now am silver fine."

There are some interesting pieces of plate preserved by the Corporation of Bristol, especially a pair of gilt tankards, richly decorated, the gift of John Dodridge, Recorder of Bristol, 1658, and a gilt ewer and salver, the gift of Robert Kitchen. These were both assayed and marked in London. The salver made in 1595 was stolen during the Bristol riots in October, 1831, and was cut up into 167 pieces, in which state it was offered for sale to a silversmith of the town, who apprehended the thief, and he was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. The pieces were riveted together on a silver plate by the same silversmith, in which state it now remains, its history being recorded on the back. A State sword, bearing date 1483, ornamented and enamelled, is also preserved; on one of the mounts

are the arms of the City of Bristol. These are:—*Gules, on a mount in the sinister base vert on the sinister side a castle with two towers domed on each a pennon all argent, the dexter base barry wavy of six argent and azure, thereon a ship with three masts sailing from behind the castle or the fore and main masts in sight sable on each two sails of the second.* Also two unicorns as supporters, and the crest on a wreath two arms, one holding a serpent and the other a pair of scales, as on the seal of the Corporation.

CHESTER.

It appears by the record of Domesday, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor there were seven Mint Masters in Chester. In the reign of Charles I. much of the silver was coined here, and in that of William III. it was one of the six cities in which mints were established for recoining the silver of the kingdom. The Mint-mark of Chester on the half-crowns of Charles I. struck in 1645 is three gerbes or wheat-sheaves.

We have no record of the time when Chester first commenced assaying plate; it is not mentioned in the statute of the 2nd Henry IV. (A.D. 1423), but an office must have been established early in the sixteenth century. An old minute-book contains an entry some time prior to 1573, directing "that noe brother shall delevre noe plate by him wrought unles his touche be marked and set upon the same before deliverie thereof, upon paine of forfeiture of everie diffalt to be levied out of his goods iijs iiijd."

The arms of Chester, granted in 1580, were, party per pale, composed of the dexter half of the coat of

England, *Gules, three lions passant guardant in pale, or, dimidiating, azure, three garbs or*, for Blundeville, Earl of Chester. The crest is, on a wreath *or, gules, and azure*, over a royal helmet, *a sword of State erect with the point upwards*. The supporters are *on the dexter side, a lion rampant or, ducally gorged argent; on the sinister side, a wolf argent ducally gorged or*. The grant mentions the antiquity of the city, and that the ancient arms were nearly lost by time and negligence, and that the coat which the citizens claimed was deficient in crest and supporters. The hall marks on plate were the arms of the city, a sword erect between three wheat-sheaves, down to 1697. In 1701, the shield adopted was three demi-lions with three wheatsheaves also dimidiated, which was again changed about 1775 to the more simple shield above described, without the demi-lions, etc., still in use.

Chester was re-appointed by the Act 12th William III. (1700), and is regulated by that Act and the statute of 12th George II.

The variable letter was changed annually on the 5th July, from 1701 until 1839; it was then changed on the 5th August until 1890; since which time the change has been made annually on the 1st July.

Chester has, since 1889, voluntarily submitted its Diet for assay at the Mint, at the same time as the Birmingham and Sheffield Diets are verified.

The following is the present form of the Chester Mark:—



The Chester assay mark under the Order in Council of 1904 for foreign plate was for gold:—
(Acorn and two leaves).

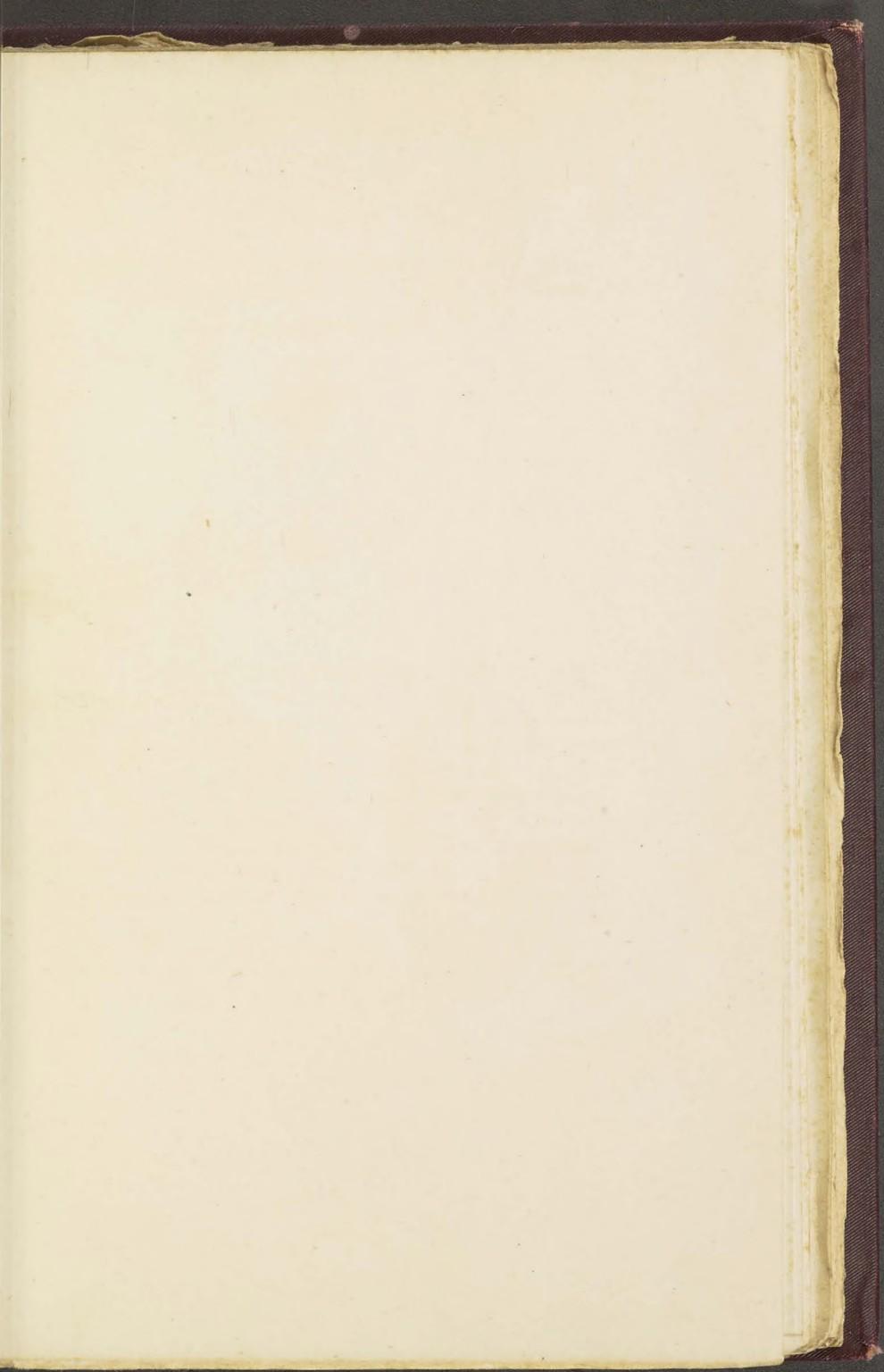


and for silver:—



We must here express our thanks to the late Assay Master, Mr. Jas. Foulkes Lowe, B.A., for his persevering kindness, not only in searching the records and furnishing extracts, but in obtaining impressions of ancient plate and affording much valuable information on the subject, which has enabled us to give a Table of the Assay Letters used at Chester from 1701 to the present time. In this task he was ably assisted by Mr. Thos. Hughes, F.S.A., the indefatigable Secretary of the Chester Archaeological Society.

Mr. W. F. Lowe, the present Assay Master, and Mr. W. N. Godwin have been good enough to enable us to complete the notes relating to Chester.





SPOONS.

Chester Hall Marks for 1703-4.

In the possession of the Chester Assay Office.

CHESTER ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

CHESTER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. Lombardic CAPITALS.		CYCLE 3. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 4. SCRIPT LETTERS.		CYCLE 5. ROMAN CAPITALS.	
CHAS. II. & JAS. II.		WILL. & MARY, & WILL. III.		WILL. III., ANNE & GEO. I.		GEORGE I. & II.		GEORGE II. & III.	
A	1664-5	A	1689-90	A	1701-2 Anne.	A	1726-7 George II.	A	1752-3
B	1665-6	B	1690-1	B	1702-3	B	1727-8	B	1753-4
C	1666-7	C	1691-2	C	1703-4	C	1728-9	C	1754-5
D	1667-8	D	1692-3	D	1704-5	D	1729-30	D	1755-6
E	1668-9	E	1693-4	E	1705-6	E	1730-1	E	1756-7
F	1669-70	F	1694-5	F	1706-7	F	1731-2	F	1757-8
G	1670-1	G	1695-6	G	1707-8	G	1732-3	G	1758-9
H	1671-2	H	1696-7	H	1708-9	H	1733-4	H	1759-60
I	1672-3	I	1697-8	I	1709-10	I	1734-5	I	1760-1
J	1673-4	J	1698-9	J	1710-1	J	1735-6	J	1761-2
K	1674-5	K	1699-0	K	1711-2	K	1736-7	K	1762-3
L	1675-6	L	1700-1	L	1712-3	L	1737-8	L	1763-4
M	1676-7	M	1701-2	M	1713-4	M	1738-9	M	1764-5
N	1677-8	N	1702-3	N	1714-5	N	1739-40	N	1765-6

CHESTER DATE LETTERS.

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P	1678-9	L	1715-6	U	1715-6	P	1741-2
Q	1679-80	Q	1716-7	P	1741-2	Q	1767-8
R	1680-1	R	1717-8	Q	1742-3	Q	1768-9
S	1681-2	S	1718-9	R	1743-4	R	1769-70
T	1682-3	T	1719-20	S	1744-5	S	1770-1
U	1683-4	U	1720-1	T	1745-6	T	1771-2
V	1684-5 James II.	V	1721-2	U	1746-7	U	1772-3
W	1685-6	W	1722-3	V	1747-8	W	1773-4
X	1686-7	X	1723-4	W	1748-9	X	1774-5
Y	1687-8	Y	1724-5	X	1749-50	Y	1775-6
Z	1688-9	Z	1725-6	Y	1750-1	Z	1776-7

FOUR MARKS.

1. City Arms, as before.
2. Crest, fleur-de-lis, or sword erect.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

FIVE MARKS.

1. City Arms, changed about 1720 to 3 demi-lions and 3 half gherbes.
2. Lion passant.
3. Leopard's Head cr.
4. Date Letter.
5. Maker's Mark.

After 1720. Old Standard.

FIVE MARKS.

1. Lion Passant.
2. Leopard's Head.
3. City Arms, as preceding.
4. Date Letter.
5. Maker, as before.

Note.—The letters after 1701, with few exceptions, are placed in square escutcheons, with the corners cut off.
 * Sir Philip Egerton, of Oulton, has sent us facsimiles of the Chester Marks on a pair of barrel-mugs, with P in Roman capitals, and an invoice of R. Richardson, Silversmith, 1769, made in 1767-8 for P. Egerton, Esq., of Oulton.

CHESTER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 6. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 7. ROMAN CAPITAL.		CYCLE 8. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 9. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS, GEO. III & IV, WILL. IV & VICTORIA.		CYCLE 10. BLACK LETTER SMALL, VICTORIA.	
GEORGE III.		GEORGE III.		A		B		A	
a	1777-8	A	1797-8	B	1798-9	C	1818-9	B	1839-40
b	1778-9	B	1798-9	C	1799-00	D	1819-20	B	1840-1
c	1779-80	C	1799-00	D	1800-1	E	1820-1	C	1841-2
d	1780-1	D	1800-1	E	1801-2	F	1821-2	D	1842-3
e	1781-2	E	1801-2	F	1802-3	G	1822-3	E	1843-4
f	1782-3	F	1802-3	G	1803-4	H	1823-4	F	1844-5
g	1783-4	G	1803-4	H	1804-5	I	1824-5	G	1845-6
h	1784-5	H	1804-5	I	1805-6	J	1825-6	H	1846-7
i	1785-6	I	1805-6	K	1806-7	L	1826-7	I	1847-8
k	1786-7	K	1806-7	L	1807-8	M	1827-8	K	1848-9
l	1787-8	L	1807-8	M	1808-9	N	1828-9	L	1849-50
m	1788-9	M	1808-9	N	1809-10	O	1829-30	M	1850-1
n	1789-90	N	1809-10	O				N	1851-2
								William IV.	

CHESTER DATE LETTERS.

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P	1791-2	O	1812-3	R	1813-4	S	1814-5	T	1815-6	V	1816-7	U	1817-8
Q	1792-3	P	1813-4	Q	1814-5	R	1815-6	S	1816-7	T	1817-8	U	1796-7
r	1798-4			R	1814-5			S	1815-6			T	1795-6
s	1794-5			Q	1815-6			T	1816-7			U	1796-7
t	1795-6			R	1816-7			V	1817-8			V	1796-7
u	1796-7			S	1817-8			U	1818-9			W	1796-7
The Stamp of the City Arms of 3 demilions and gerbe, charged to the Old Stamp of a sword between three gerbes, about 1775.													
P	1853-4	Q	1854-5	R	1855-6	S	1856-7	T	1857-8	V	1858-9	U	1859-60
q	1853-4	p	1854-5	r	1855-6	s	1856-7	t	1857-8	w	1858-9	u	1859-60
P	1881-2	Q	1882-3	R	1883-4	S	1884-5	T	1885-6	V	1886-7	U	1887-8
q	1881-2	p	1882-3	r	1883-4	s	1884-5	t	1885-6	w	1886-7	u	1887-8
P	1888-9	Q	1889-0	R	1890-1	S	1891-2	T	1892-3	V	1893-4	U	1894-5
q	1888-9	p	1889-0	r	1890-1	s	1891-2	t	1892-3	w	1893-4	u	1894-5
P	1895-6	Q	1896-7	R	1897-8	S	1898-9	T	1899-0	V	1900-1	U	1901-2
q	1895-6	p	1896-7	r	1897-8	s	1898-9	t	1899-0	w	1900-1	u	1901-2
P	1902-3	Q	1903-4	R	1904-5	S	1905-6	T	1906-7	V	1907-8	U	1908-9
q	1902-3	p	1903-4	r	1904-5	s	1905-6	t	1906-7	w	1907-8	u	1908-9
P	1909-10	Q	1910-11	R	1911-12	S	1912-13	T	1913-14	V	1914-15	U	1915-16
q	1909-10	p	1910-11	r	1911-12	s	1912-13	t	1913-14	w	1914-15	u	1915-16
P	1917-18	Q	1918-19	R	1919-20	S	1920-21	T	1921-22	V	1922-23	U	1923-24
q	1917-18	p	1918-19	r	1919-20	s	1920-21	t	1921-22	w	1922-23	u	1923-24
P	1925-26	Q	1926-27	R	1927-28	S	1928-29	T	1929-30	V	1930-31	U	1931-32
q	1925-26	p	1926-27	r	1927-28	s	1928-29	t	1929-30	w	1930-31	u	1931-32
P	1933-34	Q	1934-35	R	1935-36	S	1936-37	T	1937-38	V	1938-39	U	1939-40
q	1933-34	p	1934-35	r	1935-36	s	1936-37	t	1937-38	w	1938-39	u	1939-40
P	1941-42	Q	1942-43	R	1943-44	S	1944-45	T	1945-46	V	1946-47	U	1947-48
q	1941-42	p	1942-43	r	1943-44	s	1944-45	t	1945-46	w	1946-47	u	1947-48
P	1949-50	Q	1950-51	R	1951-52	S	1952-53	T	1953-54	V	1954-55	U	1955-56
q	1949-50	p	1950-51	r	1951-52	s	1952-53	t	1953-54	w	1954-55	u	1955-56
P	1957-58	Q	1958-59	R	1959-60	S	1960-61	T	1961-62	V	1962-63	U	1963-64
q	1957-58	p	1958-59	r	1959-60	s	1960-61	t	1961-62	w	1962-63	u	1963-64
P	1965-66	Q	1966-67	R	1967-68	S	1968-69	T	1969-70	V	1970-71	U	1971-72
q	1965-66	p	1966-67	r	1967-68	s	1968-69	t	1969-70	w	1970-71	u	1971-72
P	1973-74	Q	1974-75	R	1975-76	S	1976-77	T	1977-78	V	1978-79	U	1979-80
q	1973-74	p	1974-75	r	1975-76	s	1976-77	t	1977-78	w	1978-79	u	1979-80
P	1981-82	Q	1982-83	R	1983-84	S	1984-85	T	1985-86	V	1986-87	U	1987-88
q	1981-82	p	1982-83	r	1983-84	s	1984-85	t	1985-86	w	1986-87	u	1987-88
P	1989-90	Q	1990-91	R	1991-92	S	1992-93	T	1993-94	V	1994-95	U	1995-96
q	1989-90	p	1990-91	r	1991-92	s	1992-93	t	1993-94	w	1994-95	u	1995-96
P	1997-98	Q	1998-99	R	1999-2000	S	2000-2001	T	2001-2002	V	2002-2003	U	2003-2004
q	1997-98	p	1998-99	r	1999-2000	s	2000-2001	t	2001-2002	w	2002-2003	u	2003-2004
P	2005-06	Q	2006-07	R	2007-08	S	2008-09	T	2009-10	V	2010-11	U	2011-12
q	2005-06	p	2006-07	r	2007-08	s	2008-09	t	2009-10	w	2010-11	u	2011-12
P	2013-14	Q	2014-15	R	2015-16	S	2016-17	T	2017-18	V	2018-19	U	2019-20
q	2013-14	p	2014-15	r	2015-16	s	2016-17	t	2017-18	w	2018-19	u	2019-20
P	2021-22	Q	2022-23	R	2023-24	S	2024-25	T	2025-26	V	2026-27	U	2027-28
q	2021-22	p	2022-23	r	2023-24	s	2024-25	t	2025-26	w	2026-27	u	2027-28
P	2029-30	Q	2030-31	R	2031-32	S	2032-33	T	2033-34	V	2034-35	U	2035-36
q	2029-30	p	2030-31	r	2031-32	s	2032-33	t	2033-34	w	2034-35	u	2035-36
P	2037-38	Q	2038-39	R	2039-40	S	2040-41	T	2041-42	V	2042-43	U	2043-44
q	2037-38	p	2038-39	r	2039-40	s	2040-41	t	2041-42	w	2042-43	u	2043-44
P	2045-46	Q	2046-47	R	2047-48	S	2048-49	T	2049-50	V	2050-51	U	2051-52
q	2045-46	p	2046-47	r	2047-48	s	2048-49	t	2049-50	w	2050-51	u	2051-52
P	2053-54	Q	2054-55	R	2055-56	S	2056-57	T	2057-58	V	2058-59	U	2059-60
q	2053-54	p	2054-55	r	2055-56	s	2056-57	t	2057-58	w	2058-59	u	2059-60
P	2061-62	Q	2062-63	R	2063-64	S	2064-65	T	2065-66	V	2066-67	U	2067-68
q	2061-62	p	2062-63	r	2063-64	s	2064-65	t	2065-66	w	2066-67	u	2067-68
P	2069-70	Q	2070-71	R	2071-72	S	2072-73	T	2073-74	V	2074-75	U	2075-76
q	2069-70	p	2070-71	r	2071-72	s	2072-73	t	2073-74	w	2074-75	u	2075-76
P	2077-78	Q	2078-79	R	2079-80	S	2080-81	T	2081-82	V	2082-83	U	2083-84
q	2077-78	p	2078-79	r	2079-80	s	2080-81	t	2081-82	w	2082-83	u	2083-84
P	2085-86	Q	2086-87	R	2087-88	S	2088-89	T	2089-90	V	2090-91	U	2091-92
q	2085-86	p	2086-87	r	2087-88	s	2088-89	t	2089-90	w	2090-91	u	2091-92
P	2093-94	Q	2094-95	R	2095-96	S	2096-97	T	2097-98	V	2098-99	U	2099-2000
q	2093-94	p	2094-95	r	2095-96	s	2096-97	t	2097-98	w	2098-99	u	2099-2000
P	2101-2102	Q	2102-2103	R	2103-2104	S	2104-2105	T	2105-2106	V	2106-2107	U	2107-2108
q	2101-2102	p	2102-2103	r	2103-2104	s	2104-2105	t	2105-2106	w	2106-2107	u	2107-2108
P	2109-2110	Q	2110-2111	R	2111-2112	S	2112-2113	T	2113-2114	V	2114-2115	U	2115-2116
q	2109-2110	p	2110-2111	r	2111-2112	s	2112-2113	t	2113-2114	w	2114-2115	u	2115-2116
P	2117-2118	Q	2118-2119	R	2119-2120	S	2120-2121	T	2121-2122	V	2122-2123	U	2123-2124
q	2117-2118	p	2118-2119	r	2119-2120	s	2120-2121	t	2121-2122	w	2122-2123	u	2123-2124
P	2125-2126	Q	2126-2127	R	2127-2128	S	2128-2129	T	2129-2130	V	2130-2131	U	2131-2132
q	2125-2126	p	2126-2127	r	2127-2128	s	2128-2129	t	2129-2130	w	2130-2131	u	2131-2132
P	2133-2134	Q	2134-2135	R	2135-2136	S	2136-2137	T	2137-2138	V	2138-2139	U	2139-2140
q	2133-2134	p	2134-2135	r	2135-2136	s	2136-2137	t	2137-2138	w	2138-2139	u	2139-2140
P	2141-2142	Q	2142-2143	R	2143-2144	S	2144-2145	T	2145-2146	V	2146-2147	U	2147-2148
q	2141-2142	p	2142-2143	r	2143-2144	s	2144-2145	t	2145-2146	w	2146-2147	u	2147-2148
P	2149-2150	Q	2150-2151	R	2151-2152	S	2152-2153	T	2153-2154	V	2154-2155	U	2155-2156
q	2149-2150	p	2150-2151	r	2151-2152	s	2152-2153	t	2153-2154	w	215		

CHESTER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 11. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 11. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 12. SCRIPT LETTERS.		CYCLE 12. SCRIPT LETTERS.	
VICTORIA.	EDWARD VII.	VICTORIA.	EDWARD VII.	GEORGE V.	GEORGE V.	GEORGE V.	GEORGE V.
A 1884-5	L 1894-5	A 1901-2	K 1902-3	H 1911-2	J 1919-20	U 1920-1	T 1921-2
B 1885-6	M 1895-6	B 1903-4	L 1904-5	M 1912-3	V 1921-2	W 1922-3	X 1923-4
C 1886-7		C 1903-4	D 1904-5	N 1913-4	Y 1924-5		
D 1887-8	N 1896-7	D 1904-5	E 1905-6	O 1914-5			
E 1888-9	O 1897-8	E 1905-6	F 1906-7	S 1915-6	J 1919-20	U 1920-1	T 1921-2

F	1889-90	P	1898-9	S	1907-8	2	1916-7
G	1890-1	Q	1899-00	H	1908-9	3	1917-8
H	1891-2	R	1900-1	I	1909-10	S	1918-9
I	1892-3			K	1893-4		

FIVE MARKS.
1. Lion passant.
2. City Arms.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.
5. Queen's Head.

FOUR MARKS.
1. Lion passant.
2. City Arms.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

FOUR MARKS.
1. Lion passant.
2. City Arms.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

FOUR MARKS.
1. Lion passant.
2. City Arms.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Mark.

Duty abolished on silver, and Queen's Head omitted.

EXAMPLES.

CHESTER, 1665. The following four marks occur on a porringer or two-handled cup and cover, lately in the possession of *Messrs. Lewis and Son*, Brighton. It is the earliest authentic piece of Chester plate we have hitherto met with, enabling us to ascertain the type of letter used in the cycle commencing 1664.

1. The Chester City Arms, a dagger between three wheat-sheaves or gerbes.
2. The City Crest, adopted by the Assay Office as their Hall-mark formerly, viz., a sword with a bandelet, issuing from an earl's coronet, the five pellets underneath indicating the balls of the coronet.
3. A German text B, denoting the year 1665.
4. The maker's initials crowned, probably some of the Pembertons, who were silversmiths at Chester and members of the guild about that date.



City Crest.

Still used by the Assay Office as a heading to letters and correspondence.

CHESTER, 1689. These marks are on a spoon with flat stem, leaf-shaped end, rat-tail bowl, clearly of this date. In the possession of the *Earl of Breadalbane*.

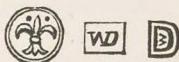
1. The Chester City Arms of a dagger between three gerbes or wheat-sheaves.
2. The Crest of the Assay Office at Chester.
3. Court-hand A, denoting the year 1689, according to the minutes of the year 1690.
4. The maker's initials, Alexander Pulford, silversmith, who was admitted in that year as a member of the guild, whose name occurs frequently in the minutes.

The assay mark of a fleur-de-lis, somewhat similar to the sword and bandelet, requires some explanation; and Mr. Lowe, the Assay Master, remarks as a strange coincidence, that in the same old minute-book there is a sketch of a fleur-de-lis, as above shown, from which we may infer that this stamp was an old Chester mark, and we may with some degree of certainty attribute the stamp of a fleur-de-lis within a circle, so frequently found on plate of the early part of the seventeenth century, to Chester, when some such distinctive mark must have been used, and the lis has never hitherto been accounted for.

UNCERTAIN CHESTER MARKS.

CIRCA, 1660. A rat-tail spoon in the possession of the *Rev. T. Staniforth*.

A piece of plate of the seventeenth century in *Messrs. Hancock's* possession.



COVENTRY.

Although this city is mentioned in the statute of 2nd Henry VI. as being entitled to assay plate, it is not probable that plate was ever assayed here.

EXETER.

There are no records at this Hall previous to 1701. The early mark used at Exeter before this date, was a letter X crowned, subsequently altered to a castle of three towers. The Act passed in 1700, reappointing this city for assaying plate, did not come into operation until the 29th September, 1701. On the 7th of August the Company of Goldsmiths met, and on the 17th of September Wardens were appointed, and they resolved, with all convenient speed and safety to put the Act in execution; and the first assayer was sworn in before the Mayor on the 19th of November, 1701. The letters commenced with a Roman capital A for that year, as ordered by the statute, which characters, large and small, they used throughout the alphabet until 1837, when they adopted old English capitals for that cycle. A Table of Letters for each year will be found annexed.

At this Office only one standard of gold was assayed, which was the highest standard of 22 karats.

Since 1701 the date letter was always changed on the 7th of August in each year.

The office at this city continued to do useful work, until about thirty years ago, when it was closed. A great part of the silver assayed at Exeter was manufactured in Bristol.

Ultimately the amount of business decreased to so large an extent that on the 26th June, 1883, a special Court was held at the Goldsmiths' Hall. At this Court there were present Mr. Josiah Williams, Mr.

John Ellett Lake, Mr. Ross, Mr. Henry Lake, Mr. Maynard, Assay Master, and Mr. Henry Wilcocks Hooper, Solicitor to the Company. The Company resolved, having regard to the small quantity of silver recently marked, that it was not desirable to obtain new punches; and that the premises used for the business should be given up; and that no fresh premises should be taken until sufficient applications were received to render it desirable to re-open the Hall. The old punches were surrendered to the Inland Revenue Office, and the books and papers deposited with Mr. Hooper, the Solicitor to the Company.

The early minute books and other documents of the Company are now in the custody of Mr. Hooper; and six copper plates, on which many of the date letters and makers' marks have been struck, are now in the custody of Mr. J. Jerman, of Exeter.

For much of this information relating to the Exeter Assay Office, we are indebted to Mr. Percy H. Hooper, the last Deputy Assayer, and Mr. J. Jerman.

The form of the castle used at Exeter has varied at different times. At first the mark appeared of the following form:—



About 1710 the form was slightly varied:—



In 1823 the three towers are detached and placed in an oblong :—



A few years later the castles were again joined, and that form was retained until the office was closed :—



The lion passant was very similar to that used at Birmingham :—



The arms of the city of Exeter are :—

Per pale gules and sable, a triangular castle with three towers or. The crest is a demilion rampant gules, crowned or, holding between his paws a bezant, surmounted by a cross botonnée or. Supporters:—Two pegasi argent, wings endorsed maned and crined or, on the wings three bars wavy azure. Motto, SEMPER FIDELIS.

EXETER ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

EXETER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 3. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 4. ROMAN SMALL.	
WILL. III. ANNE & GEO. I.		GEORGE I. & II.		GEORGE II. & III.		GEORGE III.	
A	1701-2 Anne.	a	1725-6	A	1749-50	@	1773-4
	1702-3	b	1726-7	B	1750-1	b	1774-5
B	1703-4	c	George II.	C	1751-2	c	1775-6
	1704-5	d	1727-8	D	1752-3	d	1776-7
C	1705-6	e	1728-9	E	1753-4	e	1777-8
	1706-7	f	1729-30	F	1754-5	f	1778-9
D	1707-8	g	1730-1	G	1755-6	g	1779-80
E	1708-9	h	1731-2	H	1756-7	h	1780-1
F	1709-10	i	1732-3	I	1757-8	i	1781-2
G	1710-1	k	1733-4	K	1758-9	k	1782-3
H	1711-2	l	1734-5	L	1759-60	l	1783-4
I	1712-3	m	1735-6	M	1760-1	m	1784-5
J			1736-7	N			

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	n	o	p	q	r	f	t	v	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	f	t	v	w	x	y	z												
1713-4 George I.	1714-5	1715-6	1716-7	1717-8	1718-9	1719-20	1720-1	1721-2	1722-3	1723-4	1724-5	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1746-7	1747-8	1748-9	1761-2 George III.	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9	1769-70	1770-1	1771-2	1772-3	1785-6	1786-7	1787-8	1788-9	1789-90	1790-1	1791-2	1792-3	1793-4	1794-5	1795-6	1796-7
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	V	W	X	Y	Z	n	o	p	q	r	f	t	v	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	f	t	v	w	x	y	z												
1713-4 George I.	1714-5	1715-6	1716-7	1717-8	1718-9	1719-20	1720-1	1721-2	1722-3	1723-4	1724-5	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1746-7	1747-8	1748-9	1761-2 George III.	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9	1769-70	1770-1	1771-2	1772-3	1785-6	1786-7	1787-8	1788-9	1789-90	1790-1	1791-2	1792-3	1793-4	1794-5	1795-6	1796-7

FIVE MARKS.

1. Lion passant.
 2. Leopard's Head.
 3. Castle.
 4. Date Letter.
 5. Maker's Initials.
- [In 1720 the marks of old Standard resumed.]

FIVE MARKS.

1. Lion passant.
 2. Castle.
 3. Date Letter.
 4. Maker's Initials.
 5. Maker's Initials.
- Five Marks.
1. Lion passant.
2. Leopard's Head.
3. Castle.
4. Date Letter.
5. Maker's Initials.

Five Marks.
1. Lion passant.
2. Castle.
3. Date Letter.
4. Maker's Initials.
5. Duty Mark of King's Head in 1784.

EXETER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 5. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN SMALL. GEO. III. & WILL. IV.		CYCLE 7. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS. WILL. IV. & VICT.		CYCLE 8. ROMAN CAPITALS. VICTORIA.	
A B C D E F G H I K L	1797-8 1798-9 1799-00 1800-1 1801-2 1802-3 1803-4 1804-5 1805-6 1806-7 1807-8	a b c d e f g h i k l	1817-8 1818-9 1819-20 George IV. 1820-1 1821-2 1822-3 1823-4 1824-5 1825-6 1826-7 1827-8	A B C D E F G H I J K L	1837-8 1838-9 1839-40 1840-1 1841-2 1842-3 1843-4 1844-5 1845-6 1846-7 1847-8	Victoria. A B C D E F G H I K L	1857-8 1858-9 1859-60 1860-1 1861-2 1862-3 1863-4 1864-5 1865-6 1866-7 1867-8

M	1808-9	m	1828-9	M	1848-9	M	1868-9
N	1809-10	n	1829-30	N	1849-50	N	1869-70
O		o	William IV. 1830-1	O	1850-1	O	1870-1
P	1810-1	p	1831-2	P	1851-2	P	1871-2
Q	1811-2	q	1832-3	Q	1852-3	Q	1872-3
R	1812-3	r	1833-4	R	1853-4	R	1873-4
S	1813-4	s	1834-5	S	1854-5	S	1874-5
T	1814-5	t	1835-6	T	1855-6	T	1875-6
U	1815-6	u	1836-7	U	1856-7	U	1876-7
FIVE MARKS.				FIVE MARKS.			
1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. King's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.				FIVE MARKS. 1. Lion passant. 2. Castle. 3. Queen's Head. 4. Date Letter. 5. Maker's Initials.			

EXETER ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 9.

EGYPTIAN LETTERS.

VICTORIA.

A	1877-8	B	1878-9	C	1879-80	D
F	1882-3					E
						1881-2

FIVE MARKS.

1. Lion passant.
2. Castle.
3. Queen's Head.
4. Date Letter.
5. Maker's Initials.

EXAMPLES.



B I ONS

ESTON



RADCLIFF



Apostle spoon, date about 1576.—*Messrs. Hancock.*

A spoon of the sixteenth century, with hexagonal stem, pear-shaped bowl, button top. Date of presentation 1620.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

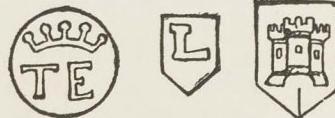
Apostle spoon, 1637.—*Rev. T. Staniforth.*

A spoon of about 1670, flat stem and oval bowl, bears this stamp with monogram and maker's initials W. F.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

Split head spoon, pricked ^{EP} _{MN} 1689.
Circd 1689.—Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.

Handsome tankard.
Date 1703.—*Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.*

Date 1703. These new standard marks are on a three-pint tankard. (Britannia holds in her hand a flower or sprig, not a cross as here given in the cut.)—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Salver *circa* 1710. The City mark of a Castle has a thin line rising from the pointed base of the shield to the central tower, indicating the partition *per pale*, like the City arms.—*Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.*

Split head spoon.
Date 1711.—*Messrs. Ellett Lake & Son.*

Rat tail spoon, given
in 1713. Date 1712.
Made by Peter Eliot
of Dartmouth.—
Messrs. Hancock.

HULL.

A little plate was marked here with the town arms during the seventeenth century, though there was never a proper Assay Office at this place.

The arms of the Town of Hull are:—

Azure, three crowns in pale or.

The mark on the following example is evidently intended to represent the town arms.

EXAMPLE.



Spoon. Date
circd 1660.—
J. H. Walter,
Esq.

LINCOLN.

This city was mentioned as an assay town in 1423, but it does not appear that plate was ever hall marked here, or indeed manufactured to any large amount.

The arms of the city of Lincoln are:—

Argent, on a cross gules, a fleur de lis or.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

The arms of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne are:—*Gules, three towers triple-towered argent.*

At Newcastle-upon-Tyne as early as 1249, Henry III. commanded the bailiffs and good men to choose four of the most prudent and trusty men of their town for the office of moneyers there, and other four like persons for keeping the King's Mint in that

town; also, two fit and prudent goldsmiths to be assayers of the money to be made there.

By the Act of 1423 this town was appointed one of the seven provincial assay towns in England.

In 1536 the goldsmiths were, by an ordinary, incorporated with the plumbers and glaziers, and the united company required to go together, on the feast of Corpus Christi, and maintain their play of the "Three Kings of Coleyn." They were to have four wardens, viz., one goldsmith, one plumber, one glazier, and one pewterer or painter; and they had their hall in "Maden Tower" granted them in the mayoralty of Sir Peter Riddell in 1619, and the association of the goldsmiths with the other tradesmen seems to have lasted till 1702.*

This town was reappointed as an assay town by the Act of 1701.

The annual letter appears to have been used from 1702. Mr. Thomas Sewell, one of the Wardens of the Assay Office, has kindly furnished us with a Table of Date-Letters, chronologically arranged, compiled from the Assay Office Books and the copperplate on which the maker strikes his initials, as well as from pieces of old plate which have from time to time come under his notice. From careful examination of various examples of Newcastle plate, we have, in this edition, altered some of the characters, making the table more complete. The change of letter took place on the 3rd of May in each year.

In 1773 the members of the Goldsmiths' Company at Newcastle-upon-Tyne were—Mr. John Langlands and Mr. John Kirkup, Goldsmiths and Silversmiths, Wardens; and Mr. Matthew Prior, Assayer.

The names and places of abode of all the Gold-

* From an Impartial History of the Town and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, published in 1801, p. 429.

smiths, Silversmiths, and Plate-workers then living, who had entered their names and marks were—Mr. John Langlands, Mr. John Kirkup, Mr. Samuel James, Mr. James Crawford, Mr. John Jobson, Mr. James Hetherington (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Mr. John Fearney (Sunderland), and Mr. Samuel Thomson (Durham).

The Assay Office at Newcastle was closed in May, 1884, in consequence of there being insufficient work to make it worth keeping open. The Assay Master of the Office before 1854 was Mr. F. Somerville. He was succeeded by Mr. James Robson, who entered the office as a stamper in 1836, became Assay Master in 1854, and retained that post until the Office was finally closed. The last two wardens were Mr. T. A. Reid and Mr. J. W. Wakinshaw. A curious incident occurred when Mr. Robson commenced his duties. By some means he obtained the wrong punches, and marked some plate which afterwards went to Carlisle. This almost led to an action against a silversmith at that city, who was accused of forging the hall marks.

When the office was closed the stamping punches were obliterated or defaced by an Inland Revenue Officer. The name punch plate and the old books of the Goldsmiths' Company were placed in the Black Gate Museum of the Old Castle in the city.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 3. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 4. SCRIPT CAPITALS.	
ANNE & GEORGE I.		GEORGE I. & II.		GEORGE II. & III.		GEORGE III.	
A Anne.	1702-3	B	1724-5	A	1746-7	A	1769-70
B	1703-4	B	1725-6	B	1747-8	B	1770-1
C	1704-5	C	1726-7	C	1748-9	C	1771-2
D	1705-6	D	1727-8	D	1749-50	D	1772-3†
E	1706-7	E	1728-9 George II.	E	1750-1	E	1773-4
F	1707-8	F	1729-30	F	1751-2	F	1774-5
G	1708-9	G	1730-1	G	1752-3	G	1775-6
H	1709-10	H	1731-2	H	1753-4	H	1776-7
I	1710-1	I	1732-3	I	1754-5	I	1777-8
K	1711-2	K	1733-4	J	1755-6	K	1778-9
				K	1756-7	L	1779-80

L	M	N	O	P	Q	S	T	U	V	W	
1712-3	1713-4	1714-5	George I.	1715-6	1716-7	1717-8	1718-9	1719-20	1720-1	1721-2	1722-3
1712-3	1713-4	1714-5	George I.	1715-6	1716-7	1717-8	1718-9	1719-20	1720-1	1721-2	1722-3
1734-5	1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6
1734-5	1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6
1757-8	1758-9	1759-60	1760-1	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9
1757-8	1758-9	1759-60	1760-1	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9
1780-1	1781-2	1782-3	1783-4	1784-5	1785-6	1786-7	1787-8	1788-9	1789-90	1790-1	1790-1

* A mug with a Newcastle stamp of 1723-4 (W) in Messrs. Garrard's possession.
 † The Assay Master of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, says expressly;
 "The letter for the present official year (1722-3) is D."

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 5. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 7. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 8. ROMAN SMALL.	
GEORGE III.		GEO. III. & IV., WILL. IV. & VICT.		VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.	
A	1791-2	②	b	A	B	②	1864-5
B	1792-3	c	1815-6	C	D	b	1865-6
C	1793-4	d	1816-7	E	F	c	1866-7
D	1794-5	e	1817-8	G	H	d	1867-8
E	1795-6	f	1818-9	I	J	e	1868-9
F	1796-7	g	1819-20 George IV.	K	L	f	1869-70
G	1797-8	h	1820-1	M	N	g	1870-1
H	1798-9	i	1821-2	O	P	h	1871-2
I	1799-00	j	1822-3	Q	R	i	1872-3
K	1800-1	k	1823-4	S	T	j	1873-4
L	1801-2	l	1824-5	U	V	k	1874-5
			1825-6	W	X	l	1850-1

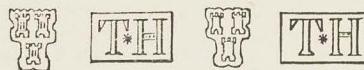
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE DATE LETTERS.

75

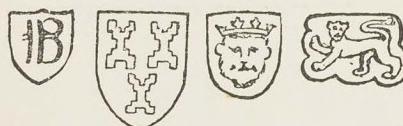
M	1802-3	M	1826-7	M	1851-2	m	1875-6
N	1803-4	N	1827-8	N	1852-3	n	1876-7
O	1804-5	O	1828-9	O	1853-4	o	1877-8
P	1805-6	P	1829-30	P	1854-5	p	1878-9
Q	1806-7	Q	1830-1 William IV.	Q	1855-6	q	1879-80
R	1807-8	R	1831-2	R	1856-7	r	1880-1
S	1808-9	S	1832-3	S	1857-8	s	1881-2
T	1809-10	T	1833-4	T	1858-9	t	1882-3
U	1810-1	U	1834-5	U	1859-60	u	1883-4
V	1811-2	V	1835-6	V	1860-1		
W	1812-3	W	1836-7	W	1861-2		
X	1813-4	X	1837-8 Victoria.	X	1862-3		
Y	1814-5	Y	1838-9	Y	1863-4		
Z		Z		Z			

Note.—The usual marks found upon plate assayed at Newcastle are :—1. The Lion passant. 2. The Leopard's Head crowned. 3. The Town Mark of Three Castles. 4. The Letter or Date Mark; and 5. The Maker's Initials. After 1784 the Duty Mark of the Sovereign's Head is added.

EXAMPLES



A porringer with two handles, fluted base and gadroon border at top. Date about 1680.—*The Earl of Breadalbane.*



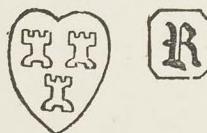
Large gravy ladle.
Date 1725.—*H. A. Attenborough, Esq.*



Ditto. 1740.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Small beaker. Date 1740.—*The Marquis of Exeter.*



Do. 1746. *Messrs. Hancock.*



Do. 1752. do.



Do. 1764. do.



Do. 1765. do.

					Do.	1769.	do.
					Do.	1770.	do.
					Do.	1771.	do.
					Do.	1774.	do.

NORWICH.

The arms of the city of Norwich are:—

Gules, a castle surmounted with a tower argent, in base a lion passant guardant or.

In Norwich, plate was assayed and marked at an early period, and some specimens are existing among the Corporation plate of the date 1567. An annual letter seems to have been used, for we find on a gilt cylindrical salt and cover, elaborately chased with strap-work and elegant borders, this inscription:—"The Gyfte of Peter Reade, Esquier, to the Corporation." The plate-marks are—1. The Arms of Norwich; 2. A Roman capital D; and 3, Cross-mound (or orb and cross) within a lozenge. It was therefore made and stamped at Norwich before 1568, for Peter Reade died in that year.

Among the records of the Corporation of Norwich we see that in 1624 the mark of a castle and lion was delivered by the Mayor and Corporation to the Wardens and Searcher of the trade of goldsmiths; and on July 1, 1702, Mr. Robert Harstonge was sworn assayer of gold and silver to the Company, although we have never met with any plate with marks of Norwich after that date.

A cocoa-nut cup, mounted in silver, bears the city arms of castle and lion and a rose crowned, with the date mark, a Roman capital S.—*Messrs. Hunt & Roskell.*

The stamp of a rose is frequently found on plate of the sixteenth century, and is thought to denote the Norwich Assay Office, being, as in the piece just alluded to, found by the side of the city arms. A silver-mounted cocoa-nut cup in the *South Kensington Museum* bears the impress of a rose crowned, a date letter R, and the maker's mark, a star. It has the date of presentation, 1576, engraved upon it.

Among the Corporation plate is a gilt tazza cup on a short baluster stem. Engraved round the edge in cusped letters is the following inscription:—"THE MOST HERE OF IS DVNE BY PETER PETERSON." He was an eminent goldsmith at Norwich in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In the bottom of the bowl are engraved, within a circle, the arms of the city of Norwich. Two plate-marks have existed on the edge of the bowl. One of these seems to bear the arms of the city in an escutcheon, which was used to distinguish the plate made and assayed at Norwich, and the other a cross-mound. There are two other cups of similar character belonging to the Corporation, on one of which are the following assay marks, the lion, the leopard's face, a covered cup, and letter. All three were probably the gift of John Blenerhasset, whose arms are engraved within one of them. He was steward of the city in 1563, and one of the burgesses in Parliament, 13 Eliz.—*Proceedings Arch. Inst.* 1847.

A silver mace-head of the Company of St. George, in form of a capital of a column, enriched with acanthus leaves, and surmounted by a statuette of St. George and the Dragon. Round the collar has been engraved, but now partly obliterated by the insertion of four sockets, the following inscription:—

*"Ex Dono Honorabil: Fraternitatis Sti. Georgij in
Norwico
Anº Do^m 1705."*

On the top is engraved the shield of St. George and the following:—

"DIE III. MAEII, MDCLXXXVI. BENI ET FELICITER
MVNICIPIO NORVICensi OMNIA VT EVENIANT
PRECATVR ROBERTVS PARTRIDGE PRAETER."

The plate-mark, a court-hand *b* in an escutcheon on the mace-head, is of the year 1697. The initial H occurs on one of the marks, the remainder of which is illegible. Height 12³/4 in.—*Ibid.*

The Walpole mace, presented in 1733, was assayed and stamped in London.

A finely ornamented repoussé ewer and salver, with Neptune and Amphitrite, "The gift of the Hon. Henry Howard, June 16, 1663," was stamped in London in 1597. A tall gilt tankard, repoussé with strap-work, flowers, and fruit, and engraved with the arms of Norwich, was stamped in London in 1618.

The rose crowned is the standard mark; the castle and lion that of the town; the cross-mound and star being the mark of the famous Peter Peterson.

EXAMPLES.

A chalice dated 1567, stamped with the letter C, and a cross-mound within a lozenge.—*North Creake Church, Norfolk.*



A piece of plate,
date about 1567.—
Messrs. Hancock.

Communion cup of
the same date.—
Messrs. Hancock.



Silver gilt salt. Date 1568.—*The Corporation of Norwich.*

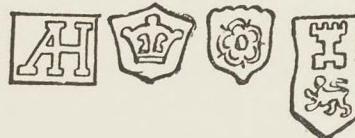


Mount of a cocoa-nut cup, with the date of presentation 1576.—*South Kensington Museum.*

A cocoa-nut cup, stamped with a rose, and the letter S, date about 1580.—*Messrs. Hunt & Roskell.*



Seal-top spoon. Date circa 1637.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*



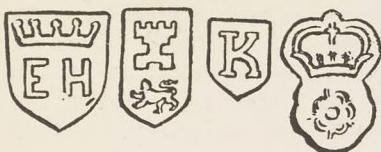
Split head spoon. Date circa 1662.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*



Tankard, date 1691.—*James Reeve, Esq.*



Button top spoon, pounced date 1717, date of make about 1693.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Beaker, date 1697.—
J. H. Walter, Esq.

SALISBURY.

This city was appointed as an assay town in 1423, but it is not known if plate was ever assayed here; in any case nothing was done in 1700, when several other places were reappointed as assay towns.

The arms of the city are:—*Azure, four bars or.*

SHEFFIELD.

At Sheffield, silver only is assayed. Mr. B. W. Watson, the Assay Master, has most courteously furnished us with the variable letter for each year from the commencement in 1773, from references to the minute-book wherein are recorded the meetings for the election of new wardens, as well as the letter to be used for the ensuing year. The change takes place on the first Monday in July. The plan adopted at Sheffield differs from all the other offices, for instead of taking the alphabet in regular succession, the special letter for each year is selected apparently at random until 1824, after which the letters follow in their proper order. Through Mr. Watson's kindness, we are enabled to lay before our readers a table of marks, which has been verified by him. The marks used at this office are the same as at London, except that the crown is substituted for the leopard's head, and variation of the date-mark.

Sometimes we find the crown and date-letter combined in one stamp, probably on small pieces of plate, but they are generally separate on square punches. When practicable, the four marks are placed in order and struck from one punch, but they are struck separately, when that cannot be done. The marks are so combined for the convenience of the wardens in marking the goods, but the letter only is used to denote the year in which the article was made.

The date letters were placed in square escutcheons, until 1917-8.

The form of the lion and crown was formerly :—



On the introduction of Cycle 7, the letters of which were placed in a pointed outline, the lion and crown were altered in conformity :—



The Sheffield assay mark under the Order in Council of 1904 for foreign plate was for gold :—

(Crossed arrows.)



And for silver :—



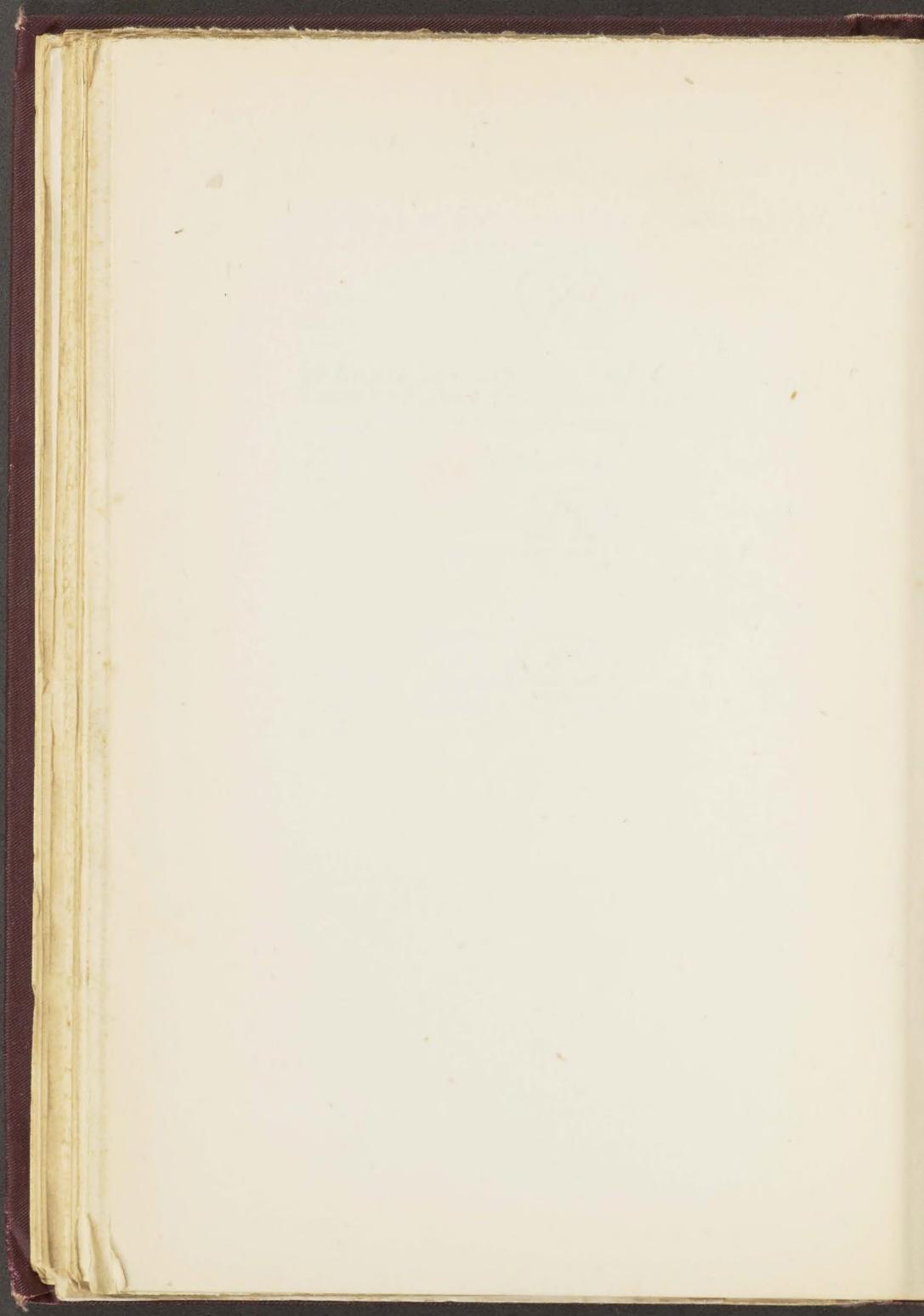
The assay mark of this Office was altered as follows, by the before-mentioned Order in Council of 1906, for foreign plate for gold :—

(Libra.)



And for silver :—





SHEFFIELD ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

SHEFFIELD ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 3. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 4. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 5. BLOCK LETTERS.	
GEORGE III.		GEO. III. & IV.		GEO. IV., WILL. IV. & VICT.		VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.	
E	1773-4	E	1799-00	a	1824-5	A	1844-5	A	1868-9
f	1774-5	N	1800-1	b	1825-6	B	1845-6	B	1869-70
R	1775-6	H	1801-2	c	1826-7	C	1846-7	C	1870-1
R	1776-7	M	1802-3	d	1827-8	D	1847-8	D	1871-2
R	1777-8	F	1803-4	e	1828-9	E	1848-9	E	1872-3
R	1778-9	G	1804-5	f	1829-30	F	1849-50	F	1873-4
R	1779-80	B	1805-6	g	1830-1	G	1850-1	G	1874-5
R	1780-1	A	1806-7	h	1831-2	H	1851-2	H	1875-6
R	1781-2	S	1807-8	k	1832-3	I	1852-3	J	1876-7
R	1782-3	P	1808-9	I	1833-4	K	1853-4	K	1877-8
R	1783-4	K	1809-10	m	1834-5	L	1854-5	L	1878-9
R	1784-5	L	1810-1	p	1835-6	M	1855-6	M	1879-80
R	1785-6	C	1811-2	q	1836-7	N	1856-7	N	1880-1

SHEFFIELD DATE LETTERS.

87

K	1786-7	T	1812-3	P	1837-8	O	1857-8	S	1858-9	R	1859-60	Q	1860-1	F	1861-2	U	1862-3	V	1863-4	W	1864-5	X	1865-6	Y	1866-7	Z	1867-8
R	1787-8	W	1813-4	S	1838-9	P	1839-40	T	1840-1	R	1841-2	U	1842-3	I	1843-4	V	1843-5	U	1844-5	W	1845-6	X	1846-7	Y	1847-8	Z	1848-9
D	1788-9	O	1814-5	t	1839-40	R	1840-1	T	1841-2	S	1842-3	U	1843-4	V	1844-5	U	1845-6	V	1846-7	W	1847-8	X	1848-9	Y	1849-0	Z	1849-1
R	1789-90	W	1815-6	U	1840-1	O	1841-2	X	1842-3	T	1843-4	I	1844-5	V	1845-6	Q	1846-7	Y	1847-8	Z	1848-9	U	1849-0	V	1849-1	W	1849-2
D	1790-1	O	1816-7	V	1841-2	T	1842-3	X	1843-4	R	1844-5	I	1845-6	V	1846-7	Y	1847-8	Z	1848-9	U	1849-0	V	1849-1	W	1849-2	X	1849-3
R	1791-2	W	1817-8	X	1842-3	O	1843-4	T	1844-5	S	1845-6	I	1846-7	V	1847-8	Q	1848-9	Y	1849-0	Z	1849-1	U	1849-2	V	1849-3	W	1849-4
D	1792-3	O	1818-9	Z	1843-4	T	1844-5	X	1845-6	R	1846-7	I	1847-8	V	1848-9	Y	1849-0	Z	1849-1	U	1849-2	V	1849-3	W	1849-4	X	1849-5
R	1793-4	W	1819-20	Y	1844-5	O	1845-6	T	1846-7	S	1847-8	I	1848-9	V	1849-0	Q	1849-1	Y	1849-2	Z	1849-3	U	1849-4	V	1849-5	W	1849-6
D	1794-5	O	1820-1	Y	1846-7	T	1847-8	X	1848-9	R	1849-0	I	1849-1	V	1849-2	Y	1849-3	Z	1849-4	U	1849-5	V	1849-6	W	1849-7	X	1849-8
R	1795-6	W	1821-2	Y	1848-9	O	1849-0	T	1849-1	S	1849-2	I	1849-3	V	1849-4	Q	1849-5	Y	1849-6	Z	1849-7	U	1849-8	V	1849-9	W	1849-0
D	1796-7	O	1822-3	Y	1849-0	T	1849-1	X	1849-2	R	1849-3	I	1849-4	V	1849-5	Y	1849-6	Z	1849-7	U	1849-8	V	1849-9	W	1849-0	X	1849-1
R	1797-8	W	1823-4	Y	1849-1	O	1849-2	T	1849-3	S	1849-4	I	1849-5	V	1849-6	Q	1849-7	Y	1849-8	Z	1849-9	U	1849-0	V	1849-1	W	1849-2
D	1798-9	O	1824-5	Y	1849-2	T	1849-3	X	1849-4	R	1849-5	I	1849-6	V	1849-7	Y	1849-8	Z	1849-9	U	1849-0	V	1849-1	W	1849-2	X	1849-3

HALL MARKS ON PLATE.
SHEFFIELD ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 6. BLACK LETTER SMALL.		CYCLE 7. SMALL ROMAN	GEORGE V.
VICTORIA, EDWARD VII & GEORGE V.			
	1893-4		
	1894-5		
	1895-6		
	1896-7		
	1897-8		
	1898-9		
	1899-00		
	1900-1 Edward VII		
	1901-2		
	1902-3		
	1903-4		
	1904-5		
	1905-6		
FOUR MARKS.			
1. Lion passant. 2. Crown.		3. Date Letter. 4. Maker.	

EXAMPLES.



Candle Stick. Date
1791-2.—*J. H. Wal-
ter, Esq.*



Salver. Date 1831-2.
—*W. Shoosmith,
Esq.*

YORK.

York was one of the most ancient places of assay, and it was mentioned in the Act of 1423. The operations at this place appear to have been discontinued, and it was reappointed as an assay office in 1700. It does not seem however that much business was ever done here.

It will be seen that in 1772, when a return was made to Parliament, the Assay Office was not in existence; but after that it appears to have recommenced working. In 1848 we find it mentioned as an assay town, but doing very little business.*

The arms of the city are:—*Argent, on a cross gules, five lions passant guardant or.*

The Corporation of the City of York possesses some interesting pieces of plate. A State sword with velvet scabbard, mounted in silver, the arms of the

* The last duty paid at the Inland Revenue Office was in July, 1869. The officer who formerly acted as assayer for the city of York died many years ago, and no successor has been appointed.

city, emblazoned, the arms of Bowes, &c., of the time of Henry VIII. On the blade is this inscription :—
“SYR MARTYN BOWES KNYGHT, BORNE WITHIN THIS CITIE OF YORK AND MAIOR OF THE CITIE OF LONDON 1545. FOR A REMEMBRANCE” (continued on the other side) “GAVE THIS S TO THE MAIOR AND COMMUNALTIE OF THIS SAID HONORABLE CITIE.”

Two tankards, the gift of Thomas Bawtrey in 1673, engraved with the arms of York, were made at York, and stamped with the York mark and the italic capital *P*. The gold cup and other pieces were made elsewhere.

A silver chalice and paten in the Church of Chapel-Allerton, Leeds, has three marks: a half fleur-de-lis and half rose, crowned; an italic *b*, similar to the London date letter of 1619; and maker's initials R.H. On the rim is the date of presentation, 1633.

A stoneware jug has in relief the royal arms of England and the date 1576. It is mounted in silver, and bears three stamps: that of the maker, a half rose and half fleur-de-lis conjoined, and the date letter *R*; it is in Mr. Addington's collection.

The stamp used at York previous to 1700 was probably that of the half rose and half fleur-de-lis conjoined, which is frequently met with on plate of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The junction of the lis and rose is probably in allusion to the union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster, by the marriage of Henry the Seventh to the Princess Margaret, daughter of Edward IV., in 1486; the lis being a favourite badge of the Lancastrians as the rose was that of York. As a mint mark we find occasionally the fleur-de-lis on the coins of the Lancastrian kings, in allusion to their French conquests; but upon some of the coins of Henry VII. we find as mint mark the lis and rose

conjoined—sometimes half rose and half lis as on the York punch on plate, on others a lis stamped upon a rose, and sometimes a lis issuing from a rose.

The York mark here given, being found on plate of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, is frequently much worn and partially obliterated. The half fleur-de-lis is easily distinguished, but the corresponding half is not so easily discerned. In some instances it looks like a demidiated leopard's head crowned; in others like the half of a seeded rose, with portion of the crown over it, for which it is probably intended. There is a great similarity, however, in all the punches we have examined, as if struck from one die, which having been a long time in use may have got damaged. It may be remarked as a curious coincidence, that two diminutive letters can be traced—YO, the two first letters of the word York.

EXAMPLES.



Apostle spoon. Date
1645. *Dallington
Church, Northamp-
tonshire.*



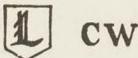
Apostle spoon of the
seventeenth century.
The stamp is a half
lis and half rose
crowned. Date 1626
—*Rev. T. Stan-
forth.*



A piece of plate,
seventeenth century.
—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Ditto.



On a spoon with flat stem, leaf-shaped end and oval bowl, date about 1680 to 1690. — *Earl of Breadalbane.* (This has also the stamp of a half lis and rose, here omitted by mistake.)

On an oval engraved teapot. This mark proves that J was used as a date letter previous to 1784, having no duty mark. It may belong to the year 1736, for J of 1710 would have the Britannia mark of the new standard. — *Messrs. Hancock.*



Scotland.

EDINBURGH.

The arms of the city of Edinburgh are:—*Argent, on a rock proper, a castle triple towered, embattled sable, masoned of the first and topped with three fans gules, windows and portcullis closed of the last.* The crest is:—*An anchor, wreathed about with a cable, both proper.* The supporters:—*Dexter; a maid richly attired, hair hanging down over her shoulders proper. Sinister; a doe also proper.* Motto, NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRÆ.

I.—THE STANDARD.

For Edinburgh—A THISTLE (after 1759); before that, the Assay Master's initials.

For gold of 22 karats, a thistle and 22.

For gold of 18 karats, a thistle and 18.

The present mark is:—



II.—THE HALL MARK.

For Edinburgh—A CASTLE with three towers, introduced in the fifteenth century (1483); before that the Assay Master's initials.

The three towered castle now used is:—



III.—THE DUTY MARK.

The head of the sovereign, indicating payment of the duty. It was omitted on the debased standards of 15, 12 and 9 karats on gold, although subject to the same duty as the higher standards. Abolished on silver plate.

IV.—THE DATE MARK.

A LETTER OF THE ALPHABET. The custom has been to use the letters alphabetically from A to Z, omitting J, thus making a cycle of twenty-five years (with some exceptions); introduced 1681, and changed on the first Hall day in October every year.

V.—THE MAKER'S MARK.

Formerly some device, with or without the maker's initials: afterwards the initials of his Christian and surname, used from time immemorial, accompanied by the Assay Master's initials only.

1. The standard mark was the deacon's initials from 1457 to 1759; when the thistle was substituted.
2. The maker's mark from 1457.
3. The town mark of a castle with three towers from 1483.
4. The date letter from 1681-2.
5. The duty mark of the sovereign's head from 1784, as in England, except on the debased standards of 15, 12, and 9 karats gold, and discontinued on silver plate.

The following table is arranged from the minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company of Edinburgh, where the date-letters appear noted almost every year from 1681, verified by pieces of plate bearing dates. The goldsmiths' year is from Michaelmas to Michaelmas (29th September). The Hall-mark or town mark of a castle was used as early as 1457, and is referred to in the Act of James II, of that year, and alluded to again in 1483 and 1555.

Previous to 1681, when our table commences, no date-mark appears to have been used. On a piece of plate said to be of the sixteenth century, exhibited at Edinburgh in 1856, in the Museum of the Archæological Institute, we find a castle (the middle tower higher than the two others, as usual), and two other stamps of the letter E. These are, perhaps, the town mark, Assay Master's, and maker's mark. The silver mace belonging to the City of Edinburgh, and known from the town records to have been made by George Robertson in 1617, has three marks, viz., the castle, the cipher G. R., and the letter G.

The High Church plate, dated 1643, and the Newbattle Church plate, dated 1646, and several others of the same date, have only the town mark, the Assay Master's mark, and that of the maker.

At the present time, when silver of the higher

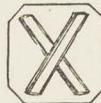
standard is assayed, the Britannia mark is used as before, to indicate that the quality is 11.1 instead of the usual standard of 11.2.

Our thanks are due to the Assay Master, Mr. T. V. Pollock, for his kindness in furnishing the present marks; and to the representatives of the late Mr. W. J. Cripps, C.B., for permitting us to include some authorities given by the late Mr. J. H. Sanderson for the Tables of Edinburgh Hall Marks, the property in which had passed to that gentleman.

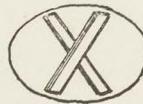
THE MARK FOR FOREIGN PLATE.

The assay mark under the Order in Council of 1904 for foreign plate was for gold:—

(St. Andrew's Cross.)



And for silver:—



EDINBURGH ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

EDINBURGH ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 1. BLACK LETTER SMALL.		CYCLE 2. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 3. ITALIC CAPITALS.		CYCLE 4. OLD ENGLISH CAPITALS.	
CHAS. II., JAS. II., WILL. & MARY, WILL. III. & ANNE.	ANNE, GEO. I. & II.	GEORGE II.	GEORGE II. & III.				
Charles II. 1681-2	A	1705-6	A	1730-1	A	1755-6	
b	B	1706-7	B	1731-2	B	1756-7	
c	C	1707-8	C	1732-3	C	1757-8	
d	D	1708-9	D	1733-4	D	1758-9	
e	E	1709-10	E	1734-5	E	1759-60	George III.
f	F	1710-1	F	1735-6	F	1760-1	George III.
g	G	1711-2	G	1736-7	G	1761-2	
h	H	1712-3	H	1737-8	H	1762-3	
i	I	1713-4	I	1738-9	I	1763-4	
k	K	1714-5	K	1739-40	K	1764-5	
l	L	George I. 1715-6	L	1740-1	L	1765-6	
m	M	1716-7	M	1741-2	M	1766-7	
n	N	1717-8	N	1742-3	N	1767-8	
o	O	1718-9	O	1743-4	O	1768-9	

D	1694-5 William III.	O	1718-9	D	1768-9
P	1695-6	P	1719-20	P	1743-4
Q	1696-7	Q	1720-1	Q	1744-5
R	1697-8	R	1721-2	R	1745-6
S	1698-9	S	1722-3	S	1746-7
T	1699-00	T	1723-4	T	1747-8
U	1700-1	U	1724-5	U	1748-9
V	1701-2	V	1725-6	V	1749-50
W	Anne.	W	1726-7	W	1750-1
X	1702-3	X	George II.	X	1751-2
Y	1703-4	Y	1727-8	Y	1752-3
Z	1704-5	Z	1728-9	Z	1753-4
			1729-30	Z	1754-5
				Z	1759-80

FOUR MARKS.

1. The Castle.
2. The Assay Master's Initials.
3. The Maker's Initials.
4. The Date Letter in a pointed shield.

FOUR MARKS.

1. The Castle.
2. The Thistle in 1759.
3. The Maker's Initials.
4. The Date Letter in a square shield.

From 1700 to 1720 Britannia was added for the New Standard.

* The standard mark of a thistle was used instead of the Assay Master's initials in 1759.

EDINBURGH ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 5. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 7. OLD ENGLISH CAPITALS.		CYCLE 8. EGYPTIAN CAPITALS.	
GEORGE III.		GEORGE III. & IV., & WILL. IV.		WILL. IV. & VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.	
A	1780-1	[a]	1806-7	[A]	1832-3	(A)	1857-8
B	1781-2	b	1807-8	B	1833-4	B	1858-9
C	1782-3	c	1808-9	C	1834-5	C	1859-60
D	1783-4	d	1809-10	D	1835-6	D	1860-1
E*	1784-5	e	1810-1	E	1836-7	E	1861-2
F	1785-6	f	1811-2	F	Victoria.	F	1862-3
G	1786-7	g	1812-3	G	1837-8	G	1863-4
G [†]	1787-8	h	1813-4	G	1838-9	G	1864-5
H	1788-9	i	1814-5	H	1839-40	H	1865-6
I	1789-90	j	1815-6	I	1840-1	I	1866-7
K	1790-1	k	1816-7	K	1841-2	K	1867-8
L	1791-2	l	1817-8	L	1842-3	L	1868-9
M	1792-3	m	1818-9	M	1843-4	M	1869-70
N	1793-4	n	1819-20	N	1844-5	N	

O	1794-5	George IV. 1820-1	O	1845-6	1870-1	
P	1795-6	1821-2	P	1846-7	1871-2	
Q	1796-7	1822-3	Q	1847-8	1872-3	
R	1797-8	1823-4	R	1848-9	1873-4	
S	1798-9	1824-5	S	1849-50	1874-5	
T	1799-00	1825-6	T	1850-1	1875-6	
U	1800-1	1826-7	U	1851-2	1876-7	
V	1801-2	V	V	1852-3	1877-8	
W	1802-3	W	W	1853-4	1878-9	
X	1803-4	X	X	1854-5	1879-80	
Y	1804-5	Y	Y	1855-6	1880-1	
Z	1805-6	Z	Z	1856-7	1881-2	
FIVE MARKS.		FIVE MARKS.		FIVE MARKS.		
O	1794-5	1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a Pointed shield; 5. The King's Head from 1784.	P	1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in a square shield; 5. Sovereign's Head.	Q	1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Initials. 4. The Date Letter in an oval. 5. Sovereign's Head.
* In 1784 the Duty Mark of the Sovereign's Head was added.		† The G is repeated according to the Minutes.				

EDINBURGH ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 9. BLACK LETTER SMALL. VICTORIA.		CYCLE 10. ROMAN CAPITALS. EDWARD VII & GEORGE V.	
	1882-3		1918-9
	1883-4		1919-20
	1884-5		1920-1
	1885-6		1921-2
	1886-7		1922-3
	1887-8		1923-4
	1894-5		
	1895-6		
	1896-7		
	1897-8		
	1898-9		
	1899-00		

	1888-9		1900-1		1912-3
	1889-90		Edward VII 1901-2		1913-4
	1890-1		1902-3		1914-5
	1891-2		1903-4		1915-6
	1892-3		1904-5		1916-7
	1893-4		1905-6		1917-8
FIVE MARKS.			FOUR MARKS.		
1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Mark. 4. The Date Letter. 5. Sovereign's Head until 1860.			1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Mark. 4. The Date Letter.		
			FOUR MARKS.		
			1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Mark. 4. The Date Letter.		
			FOUR MARKS.		
			1. The Castle. 2. The Thistle. 3. The Maker's Mark. 4. The Date Letter.		

EDINBURGH EXAMPLES.



George Robertson, maker of the mace of the city in 1617.—*Mr. J. H. Sanderson's Paper, Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland*, vol. iv. p. 543, and plate xx.

“On the Dalkeith Church plate there is no date, but it is known from the records to be older than that of Newbattle” (dated 1646).—*Ibid.*

From the plate belonging to Trinity College Church, Edinburgh, bearing date 1663.—*Ibid.* (The castle is omitted by mistake in the cut.)

On a Quaigh, hemispherical bowl with flat projecting handles, on one A C, on the other I M^oL; engraved outside with full-blown roses and lilies. The initials I M^oL are found as a maker on the Glasgow Sugar Castor. Date 1713.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



On a Table Spoon,
French pattern, rat's
tail. On back of
spoon are four
marks: (1) maker's
unknown; (2) castle;
(3) deacon's mark;
(4) date-letter U.
Date 1749.—*Earl of
Breadalbane.*

On a Dessert Spoon,
French pattern. The
date-letter is the old
English C of 1757,
showing that the
thistle was used in
this year, as before
stated. Maker un-
known. Date 1757.
—*Earl of Breadal-
bane.*

Maker's name un-
known. Date 1766.
—*Earl of Breadal-
bane.*



Spoon. Date 1837.—
J. P. Stott, Esq.

GLASGOW.

The arms of the city of Glasgow are:—*Argent, on a mount in base vert, an oak tree proper, the stem at the base thereof surmounted by a salmon on its back also proper, with a signet ring in its mouth or; on the top of the tree a redbreast, and in the sinister fess point an ancient hand-bell, both also proper.* The crest is:—*The half-length figure of St. Kentigern affrontée vested and mitred, his right hand raised in the act of benediction, and in his left a crosier, all proper.* The supporters:—*Two salmon proper, each holding in its mouth a signet ring proper.* Motto, LET GLASGOW FLOURISH.

The ancient marks on plate made at Glasgow previous to the Act of 1819, were:—1. The city arms, a tree with a hand-bell on one side and sometimes a letter G on the other, a bird on the top branch, and a fish across the trunk holding a ring in its mouth, enclosed in a very small oval escutcheon. 2. The maker's initials frequently repeated. 3. A date-letter, but it is at present only possible to assign correct dates for a very few years.

Glasgow was made an assay town by the 59 Geo. III. (May, 1819). The district comprised Glasgow and forty miles round, and it was directed that all plate made in the district should be assayed at that office. The peculiar mark of the Glasgow Company is a tree growing out of a mount, with a bell pendant on the sinister branch, a bird on the top branch, and across the trunk of the tree a salmon holding in its mouth a signet ring.

The marks used on the silver plate stamped at Glasgow, since the Act of 1819, are:—

1. *The Standard*, a lion rampant. The present form of which is:—



2. *The Hall Mark*, being the arms of the city, a tree, fish, bird, and bell.



3. *The Thistle*, has been used as an additional mark on gold of eighteen and twenty-two carats, and on silver.

4. *The Maker's Mark*, viz., his initials.
5. *The Date Mark*, or variable letter, changed on July 1 in every year.

6. *The Duty Mark* of the sovereign's head. Abolished 1890.

For gold of twenty-two and eighteen carats the figures 22 or 18 are added, and for silver of the New Standard Britannia is added.

The Scottish Act of 6 and 9 Wm. IV (1836-7) in some respects extended to Glasgow, although it is generally regulated by the 59 of George III; but they have not adopted the marks prescribed by this statute of 1836, and continue those previously in use. The only difference, however, is that the lion rampant takes the place of the thistle.

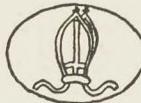
The lower gold standards of fifteen, twelve and nine carats bears the marks of 625, 15; .5, 12; and .375, 9, respectively, together with the tree, fish, bird and bell, and the date letter.

The Mark for Foreign Plate under the Order in Council of 1904 was for gold :—

(Bishop's Mitre.)



And for silver :—



The assay mark of this Office was, by the before-mentioned Order of 1906, for foreign plate for gold :—

(Double block letter F inverted.)



And for silver :—



The Assay Master, Mr. D. D. Graham, has been good enough to furnish particulars of the present marks.

GLASGOW ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

GLASGOW ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

GEO. III., WILL. IV. & VICT.	CYCLE 1. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 2. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 3. EGYPTIAN LETTER CAPITALS.		VICTORIA.
A	1819-20 George IV.		A	1845-6	A	1871-2	
B	1820-1		B	1846-7	B	1872-3	
C	1821-2		C	1847-8	C	1873-4	
D	1822-3		D	1848-9	D	1874-5	
E	1823-4		E	1849-50	E	1875-6	
F	1824-5		F	1850-1	F	1876-7	
G	1825-6		G	1851-2	G	1877-8	
H	1826-7		H	1852-3	H	1878-9	
I	1827-8		I	1853-4	I	1879-80	
J	1828-9		J	1854-5	J	1880-1	
K	1829-30 William IV.		K	1855-6	K	1881-2	
L	1830-1		L	1856-7	L	1882-3	
M	1831-2		M	1857-8	M	1883-4	
N			N	1858-9	N	1884-5	
				1839-2			

O	1833-4	1858-9	1859-60
P	1834-5		1860-1
Q	1835-6		1861-2
R	1836-7 Victoria.		1862-3
S	1837-8		1863-4
T	1838-9		1864-5
U	1839-40		1865-6
V	1840-1		1866-7
W	1841-2		1867-8
X	1842-3		1868-9
Y	1843-4		1869-70
Z	1844-5		1870-1

FIVE MARKS.	FIVE MARKS.
1. Lion rampant.	1. Lion rampant.
2. Tree, Fish and Bell.	2. Tree, Fish, and Bell.
3. Sovereign's Head.	3. Sovereign's Head until 1890.
4. Date Letter.	4. Date Letter.
5. Maker's Initials.	5. Maker's Initials.

GLASGOW ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

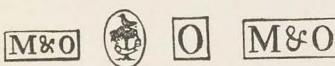
CYCLE 4. SCRIPT CAPITALS.					CYCLE 5.
VICTORIA, EDWARD VII & GEORGE V.					GEORGE V.
	1897-8		1906-7		1915-6
	1898-9		1907-8		1916-7
	1899-00		1908-9		1917-8
	1900-1		1909-00		1918-9
	1901-2		George V 1910-1		1919-00
	Edward VII 1902-3		1911-2		1920-1
	1903-4		1912-3		1921-2
	1904-5		1913-4		1922-3
	1905-6		1914-5		
FOUR MARKS.					
1. Lion rampant. 2. Tree, Fish, and Bell.			3. Date Letter. 4. Maker's Mark.		

EXAMPLES OF EARLY MARKS.

GLASGOW. These marks are on the narrow rim of the foot of an elegant silver Tazza, chased in centre with bold leaf scrolls, bordered with engrailed lines. The work is evidently of the time of Charles II., 1670-1680.
—*Messrs. Hancock.*

GLASGOW. These four stamps are found on an oval Silver Box, originally made to contain the wax seal appended to a diploma granted by the University. Dated about 1700.—*In the possession of the Earl of Breadalbane.**

GLASGOW. On a Sugar Castor, chased with festoons of roses. This maker's initials are also found engraved on the handle of a Quaigh of Edinburgh, make of 1713.—*The Earl of Breadalbane.*



* This mark should probably be M & C., for Silversmiths who had shop in Glasgow about 1776.

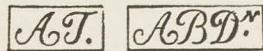
SCOTTISH PROVINCIAL MARKS.

ABERDEEN.

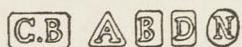
The arms of this city are:—*Gules, three towers triple towered, within a double tressure flowered and counter-flowered argent.* The supporters are:—*Two leopards proper.* Motto, BON ACCORD.

The town arms of three towers, triple towered, sometimes two and one, and sometimes one and two, was also used in the eighteenth century.

The Town Assay Office mark adopted at Aberdeen consisted of two or more of the letters in the word, thus the letters A B D, with a mark of contraction above, and later A B D N, as in the following example:



ABERDEEN. On a Table Spoon, handle turned up, and ridges in front of stem, elongated oval bowl, date about 1780.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

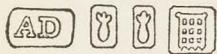


ABERDEEN. On a small Caddy Spoon. *Circa* 1880.—*W.K. Macdonald, Esq.*

ARBROATH.

The arms of this burgh are:—*A portcullis beneath a wreath of laurel.*

These arms were used as a hall mark on the silver worked at this place.



ARBROATH. On Fork, with shell pattern. *Circa 1880.—W. K. Macdonald, Esq.*

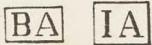
BANFF.

A matrix in the office of the Town Clerk of Banff bears an oval-shaped seal of a boar passant, "Insignia Urbis Banfiensis."—*Laing's Seals*.

The arms of the town of Banff are:—*Gules, the virgin standing and holding the infant Christ.*

The mark used in this burgh varied very much, but it generally consisted of the name BANFF, or a contraction thereof.

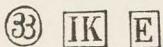
EXAMPLES.



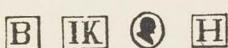
BANFF. Dessert Spoon, French pattern.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



BANFF. Dessert Spoon, French pattern, with king's head.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



BANFF. Table Spoon, French pattern.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



BANFF. Table Spoon, French pattern, with king's head.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*

DUNDEE (ANGUS).

The arms are:—*Azure, a pot of lilies argent.*
 Crest:—*A lily argent.* Supporters:—*Two dragons vert, tails knotted together below shield.* Motto,
DEI DONUM.

The town mark adopted by the Dundee Assay Offices is a pot with two handles containing three lilies, as shown in the following

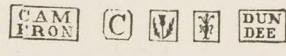
EXAMPLES



DUNDEE. On a pair of Sugar Tongs, shell and fiddle pattern, about 1880.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



DUNDEE. On a Table Spoon, oval bowl, rat's tail, flat stem, leaf-shaped end, date, *circa* 1660.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



DUNDEE. Tea Spoon, fiddle head, last century.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



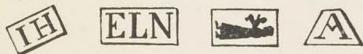
DUNDEE. Small Spoon, nineteenth century.—*W. K. Macdonald, Esq.*

ELGIN.

The arms of the burgh of Elgin are:—*A bishop standing, holding in his dexter hand an open book, and in his sinister a bishop's crosier.*

The assay towns of Aberdeen, Inverness and Banff in the adjoining counties adopted abbreviations of their names, usually the first two or three and the last letters, thus: ABDN, INS, and BA; hence, on the same principle, Elgin used ELN.

The annexed marks are on a Table Spoon, with oval bowl, the end of the handle or stem turned upwards with a ridge down the centre: a form in use from about 1730 to 1760.—*In the Earl of Breadalbane's Collection.*



GREENOCK.

Several marks were used in this burgh. Sometimes a ship in full sail, sometimes an anchor, and sometimes a green oak. The whole of these marks are occasionally found on a single article.

The arms are:—*A three-masted ship in full sail, in base on a quay, two men rolling casks, all proper.*

INVERNESS.

There have been goldsmiths in this town since the middle of the seventeenth century. The mark generally used was INS, as a short form of the name of

the town. A dromedary or camel, and a cornucopia, were also sometimes employed.

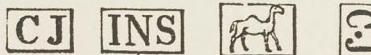
The arms of this royal burgh are:—*Gules, on a cross Calvary the Saviour proper.* But on the seal of the burgh there appears:—*A dromedary turned to the sinister.*

EXAMPLES

INVERNESS. On a Tea Spoon, fiddle head, date about 1820, with a cornucopia, the crest of the town of Inverness.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



INVERNESS. The camel, one of the supporters of the city arms. On a large annular Scottish Brooch, flat, with engraved vandykes, and a cluster of fine small annulets between each. Maker's mark, and another of the same, larger, as Deacon. Attributed to Chas. Jamison, c. 1810.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



LEITH.

From the fact of several pieces of plate having been bought here bearing the stamp of an anchor, which indicates its position as a harbour for shipping, we are inclined to attribute this mark to Leith. The circular object with rays, which accompanies it, yet remains to be explained, but in another example here adduced it is placed by the side of the thistle the standard mark of Scotland. The crest of Edinburgh is an anchor wreathed about with a cable; but in this instance the cable is omitted.

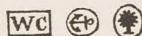
The arms of this port are:—*A two-masted galley, bearing a tabernacle containing the Virgin, seated holding the infant Christ.*

EXAMPLES

LEITH. Five Tea Spoons,
French pattern. 18th
century.—*Earl of
Breadalbane.*



LEITH. Tea Spoon and
Tongs. French pattern,
18th century.—*Earl of
Breadalbane.*



LEITH. Caddy Spoon,
shell shaped bowl,
fiddle head, with Scot-
tish standard mark
and that of a pro-
vincial town; no duty
letter, but made about
1820, judging from
the fashion.—*Earl of
Breadalbane.*



LEITH. A Scottish Brooch of conventional form, with circular broad band, plain surface, short pin at back with hinge and clasp; stamped behind with five marks.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



MONTROSE (ANGUS).

A Burgh Royal, as relative to the name, carries roses. Thus, in the Lyon Register, the arms are given as:—*Argent, a double rose gules, with helmet, mantling, and wreath suitable thereto.*

The town mark, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was therefore a rose or double rose, in a shield or circle.

PERTH.

The arms of the city of Perth (*alias St. John's Town*) so called since the Reformation are:—*An eagle displayed with two heads or, surmounted on the breast with an escutcheon gules, charged with the holy Lamb, passant regardant, carrying the banner of St. Andrew, within a double tressure, flowered and counter-flowered argent, with the hackneyed motto, PRO REGE LEGE ET GREGE.*

Goldsmiths have been established in this city from early times.

In the middle of the seventeenth century the town mark was the lamb bearing the banner of St.

Andrew. Somewhat later the double-headed eagle displayed had come into use, and continued to be used until the beginning of the present century.

EXAMPLES.

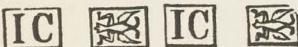
On a small quaigh, or cup with two handles, date about 1660, with these two marks only. The lamb and flag, emblem of St. John, being the arms of St. John's Town, as Perth was formerly called.—*C. A. North, Esq.*



Split head Spoon.
Date *circâ 1675.*—
J. H. Walters, Esq.



On a set of Table Spoons, French pattern, with rat tail on back of bowl, date about 1760. Some have four marks of spread eagles only, without the shield on the breast, as used recently.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



On a Dessert Spoon, fiddle head, date *circa* 1820. The spread eagle part of of the City arms, on its breast a shield with the lamb and flag of St. John; made by Robert Kay, silversmith, at Perth, in 1815.—*Ditto*.



RK



RK

RK



On a set of four Salt-Cellars, gadroon edge on three legs and claws—the seven marks arranged in a circle underneath, with the town mark in the centre, three maker's initials, and three town marks round—date *circa* 1810.—*Ditto*.

ST. ANDREWS (FIFE).

On a matrix of a privy seal in custody of the Town Clerk of St. Andrews is a wild boar passant, secured by a rope to a rugged staff. "Sigillum Secretu Civitatis Sancti Andree Apostoli."

Another seal, affixed to a deed dated 1453, bears a full-length figure of a bishop holding a crosier, &c. The counter seal has a figure of St. Andrew extended on his cross. In the lower part of the seal is a wild boar passant, in front of a tree, inscribed around, "CURSUS (APRI) REGALIS."—*Laing's Ancient Seals*.

The arms of this city are:—*Gules, on a saltire the figure of St. Andrew, in base a wild boar passant, and tree, within belt inscribed DUM SPIRO SPERO.*

STIRLING.

The seal is a lamb couchant on the top of a rock, inscribed with the motto, "OPPIDUM STERLINI."

The ancient seal of the Corporation bears: "A bridge with a crucifix in the centre of it; men armed with bows on one side of the bridge, and men with spears on the other, and the legend, "Hic Armis Bruti, Scotti stant hac cruce tuti."

On the reverse, a fortalice surrounded with trees, inscribed "Continent hoc in se nemus et castrum Strivilense."

"Burke's General Armory" gives the arms of the town, as at present used:—*Azure, on a mount, a castle triple towered without windows argent, masoned sable, the gate closed gules, surrounded by four oak sprigs disposed in orle of the second, the interstices of the field being semée of stars of six points each of the last, and motto as above.*

The only mark found on silver that can be assigned to this town is a castle triple towered in irregular shield.

STIRLING. On an oblong Tobacco-Box, engraved on the cover with two coats of arms surmounted by a ducal coronet. The town mark is a castle, triple towered, as described above, having beneath the letter S to distinguish it from a similar mark at Edinburgh. The maker's (?) mark, a mermaid and star, and his initials G B.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



TAIN (ROSS-SHIRE).

[AS] **[TAIN]** **(S)** TAIN. On a pair of Toddy Ladles, date about 1800.—
Earl of Breadalbane.

UNCERTAIN SCOTTISH MARKS.



UNKNOWN. These three stamps are on the inside of a silver lid of a shell Snuff-Box. Date about 1800.—
In the possession of the Earl of Breadalbane.



UNKNOWN. On a fiddle-head Toddy Ladle, provincial mark of some town in Scotland. Made *circā* 1810. Representing an otter or badger on a wheat ear (?) and the letters I. & G. H.—*Earl of Breadalbane.*



UNKNOWN. On a seal-top Spoon, of English or Scottish make, of the seventeenth century, the baluster end well finished. The monogram inside the bowl, the animal on the back of the stem. Letters on the bottom, W.S.—W.E.—*Lady Du Cane.* 1624.

UNCERTAIN. (Query Edinburgh.) These four marks are on the bottom of a Mug with one scroll handle, broad mouth, repoussé pyriform ornament round the lower part. The small mark is that of the maker, the other two those of the Deacon, probably the same silversmith. Date about 1680.—*Messrs. Mackay & Chisholm.*



Ireland.

DUBLIN.

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

THE Goldsmiths' Company of Dublin has the exclusive management of the assaying and marking of wrought gold and silver plate in Ireland.

The harp, and subsequently (A.D. 1638) the harp crowned, was the original Hall or district mark for all Irish manufactured plate assayed in Dublin, and found to be standard, and was used long previous to the charter granted by Charles I., 22nd December, in the year 1638, in the thirteenth year of his reign, to the Corporation of Goldsmiths of Dublin, Ireland. This charter adopted for Ireland the standards then in use in England, viz., 22 karats for gold, and 11 oz. 2 dwts. for silver. "The harp crowned now appointed by his Majesty" has been continued in use ever since, in pursuance of a clause contained in that charter, and also by the Act 23 & 24 Geo. III., c. 23, s. 3 (1784).

The Journals of the Goldsmiths' Company from 1637 until the present time are still in existence, and

a complete list of the Masters and Wardens of the Company from that date until 1800 has been printed by Mr. H. F. Berry, M.A., together with the list of Apprentices from 1653 to 1752.

A date mark was used in Dublin from a very early period, as it appears to have been in use previous to the year 1638.

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

The time appointed for the letter to be changed, and the new punches put in commission, was the 29th or 30th, but is now the 24th, May in every year. This date has not been strictly adhered to, the changes having been made at various later periods in some years.

1638 to 1729. 3 marks: harp crowned, date letter, and maker's mark.

1806 to 1807. 4 marks: harp, date letter, Hibernia, and maker's initials.

1807 to 1882. 5 marks: harp, date letter, Hibernia, sovereign's head for duty, and the maker's initials.

I.—THE STANDARD (as fixed by the Act 1st June 1784).

For Dublin.—Gold of 22 karats; a harp crowned and the numerals 22.

Gold of 20 karats; a plume of three feathers and 20.

Gold of 18 karats; a unicorn's head and 18.

Silver of 11 oz. 2 dwt.; a harp crowned.

The harp now used is placed in an upright oblong, with the corners cut off :—



No New Standard silver is stamped in Ireland.

THREE LOWER STANDARDS (17 and 18 Vict., 1854).

For Dublin.—On these the mark of the standard proper (a harp crowned) is omitted, and although subject to the same duty, the mark of the Sovereign's head was also withheld, but Hibernia is used as a Hall-mark.

Gold of 15 karats; a stamp of 15.625 (thousandths).

Gold of 12 karats; a stamp of 12.5 (thousandths).

Gold of 9 karats; a stamp of 9.375 (thousandths).

For New Geneva.—Gold of 22 karats; a harp crowned with a bar across the strings and 22.

Gold of 20 karats; a plume of two feathers and 20.

Gold of 18 karats; a unicorn's head with collar on the neck and 18.

The watch manufactory at New Geneva was discontinued about 1790, having only lasted six years.

II.—THE HALL MARK.

For Dublin.—A figure of HIBERNIA, used since 1730, on gold or silver of every standard.

The figure of Hibernia is also now placed in a similar outline:—



III.—THE DUTY MARK.

The SOVEREIGN'S HEAD, first used in 1807 to denote the payment of duty on silver and on the higher standards of gold of 22, 20 and 18 karats; but not on the lower gold of 15, 12 and 9 karats, although paying the same duty. Discontinued on silver in 1890.

IV.—THE MAKER'S MARK.

Formerly some device, with or without the initials of the goldsmith; later the initials of his Christian and surname.

V.—THE DATE MARK.

From 1638, the year in which the Communion flagon was given by Moses Hill to Trinity College, Dublin, the fact is clearly established, confirmed also by the Charter granted by Charles I. on the 22nd December of 1638, that a Roman letter for that year was adopted commencing with A. No other examples between 1638 and 1679 have come under our notice, but in the latter year we have a chalice with the Old English B, followed in 1680

by the tankard preserved in the Merchant Taylors' Company, bearing an Old English C. Following the order of the alphabet, plate was doubtless stamped down to 1686, finishing with J.

The unsettled state of Ireland during the next six years will account for the cessation of work at the Dublin Assay Office. In 1693 the letter R (next in succession) was adopted and continued alphabetically down to R in 1700. At this time the Act of William III., in 1700, reappointing the provincial offices for adopting the new or Britannia standard, and making it imperative on all the provincial offices to discontinue the *old*, may have operated in Dublin, where the *new* standard was never made, so that a few years may have elapsed before work was resumed. It appears, from no examples having been discovered during this period, that in 1710 the Hall recommenced stamping old standard plate with the letter S next in succession (the top of the shield being escalloped) down to Z in 1717, thus completing the Old English alphabet.

In 1718 a new alphabet was commenced, and as we have met with two court-hand letters A and C, whilst Mr. W. J. Cripps ("Old English Plate," edition 1878, p. 419) gives a letter B in the same hand (although no authority is quoted in his list of specimens), we have adopted his suggestion, which is probably correct, viz., that they represented the years 1718, 1719 and 1720.

In 1721 Old English letters were used, and continued with uninterrupted succession (omitting J) from A to Z, in all twenty-five letters. In 1746 Roman capitals commence, and we have to acknowledge with thanks the late Mr. Cripps' permission to

introduce his arrangement of Roman capitals from 1771 to 1820. It seems unaccountable and contrary to the practice of every other Assay Office to repeat the same character of letter in four successive cycles —the custom has always been to vary the style of alphabet in succession; but at Dublin we have Roman capitals from 1746 to 1845, just a century, the only variations in the Hall Marks being the introduction of the king's head duty-mark in 1807, and apparently a distinctive form of shield, which, however, was not strictly adhered to throughout each cycle. The arrangement of the tables is still unsatisfactory, and it is to be hoped the promised assistance of the Royal Irish Academy will enable us to clear up the existing discrepancies. Mr. Thomas Ryves Metcalf more than twenty years ago furnished us with extracts from the local Acts of Parliament and extracts from the Minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company recording the Assay Office letters and dates; but he could not do more than give us Roman capitals without any variation of type, hence the present uncertainty, and the incompleteness of our Dublin Tables. The date letter is changed each year on the 28th May.

THE ASSAY MARK FOR FOREIGN PLATE.

The assay mark under the Order in Council of 1904 for foreign plate was for gold:—

(Shamrock.)



And for silver :—



The assay mark of this office was altered as follows, by the before-mentioned Order of 1906, for foreign plate for gold :—

(Boujet.)



And for silver :—



Mr. S. W. Le Bass, the late Assay Master of the Goldsmiths' Company, gave us valuable information for previous editions of this work; and Mr. A. Le Bass, the present Assay Master, has most courteously furnished us with copies of the present marks used at Dublin.

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE
LETTERS.

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

CYCLE 5. BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.		CYCLE 6. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 7. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 8. ROMAN CAPITALS.		GEORGE III. & IV.	
GEORGE I. & II.		GEORGE II. & III.		GEORGE III.		GEORGE III. & IV.			
[A]	1721-2	[A]	1746-7	[A]	1771-2	[A]	1796-7		
B	1722-3	B	1747-8	B	1772-3	B	1797-8		
C	1723-4	C	1748-9	C	1773-4	C	1798-9		
D	1724-5	D	1749-50	D	1774-5	D	1799-00		
E	1725-6	E	1750-1	E	1775-6	E	1800-1		
F	1726-7	F	1751-2	F	1776-7	F	1801-2		
G	1727-8	G	1752-3	G	1777-8	G	1802-3		
H	George II.	H	1753-4	H	1778-9	H	1803-4		
I	1728-9	I	1754-5	I	1779-80	I	1804-5		
K	1729-30	K	1755-6	K	1780-1	K	1805-6		
L	1730-1	L	1756-7	L	1781-2	L	1806-7		
M	1731-2	M	1757-8	M	1782-3	M	1807-8		
N	1732-3	N	1758-9	N	1783-4	N	1808-9		
P	1733-4	P							

O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
1734-5	1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1759-60	1760-1 Geo ^e III.	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9	1769-70	1770-1	1771-2
1734-5	1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1759-60	1760-1 Geo ^e III.	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9	1769-70	1770-1	1771-2
1734-5	1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1759-60	1760-1 Geo ^e III.	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9	1769-70	1770-1	1771-2
1734-5	1735-6	1736-7	1737-8	1738-9	1739-40	1740-1	1741-2	1742-3	1743-4	1744-5	1745-6	1759-60	1760-1 Geo ^e III.	1761-2	1762-3	1763-4	1764-5	1765-6	1766-7	1767-8	1768-9	1769-70	1770-1	1771-2

FOUR MARKS.

1. Harp crowned.
2. Date Letter.
3. Maker's Initials.
4. Hibernia in 1730.

FOUR MARKS.

1. Harp crowned, Plume,
2. Date Letter.
3. Maker's Initials.
4. Hibernia.

FIVE MARKS.

1. Harp crowned, Plume,
2. or Unicorn.
3. Maker's Mark.
4. Date Letter.
5. Hibernia.

The King's Head from

1807.

The three Standards of
22, 20 and 18 carats, directed
to be used after 1784, are the
Harp, Plume, or Unicorn.

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

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HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

GEO. IV., WILL. IV. & VICT.	CYCLE 9. ROMAN CAPITALS.		CYCLE 10. ROMAN SMALL.		CYCLE 11. ROMAN CAPITALS.	
	VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.		VICTORIA.	
A	1821-2	a	1846-7		A	1871-2
B	1822-3	b	1847-8		B	1872-3
C	1823-4	c	1848-9		C	1873-4
D	1824-5	d	1849-50		D	1874-5
E	1825-6	e	1850-1		E	1875-6
F	1826-7	f	1851-2		F	1876-7
G	1827-8	g	1852-3		G	1877-8
H	1828-9	h	1853-4		H	1878-9
I	1829-30	i	1854-5		I	1879-80
K	1830-1 william IV.	k	1855-6		K	1880-1
L	1831-2	l	1856-7		L	1881-2
M	1832-3	m	1857-8		M	1882-3
N	1833-4	n	1858-9		N	1883-4

O	1834-5	O	1859-60	O	1884-5
P	1835-6	P	1860-1	P	1885-6
Q	1836-7	Q	1861-2	Q	1886-7
R	1837-8 <i>Victoria.</i>	R	1862-3	R	1887-8
S	1838-9	S	1863-4	S	1888-9
T	1839-40	T	1864-5	T	1889-90
U	1840-1	U	1865-6	U	1890-1
V	1841-2	V	1866-7	V	1891-2
W	1842-3	W	1867-8	W	1892-3
X	1843-4	X	1868-9	X	1893-4
Y	1844-5	Y	1869-70	Y	1894-5
Z	1845-6	Z	1870-1	Z	1895-6

FIVE MARKS.

1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn.
2. Maker's Mark.
3. Date Letter.
4. Hibernia.
5. Sovereign's Head.

FIVE MARKS.

1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn.
2. Maker's Mark.
3. Date Letter.
4. Hibernia.
5. Queen's Head, until 1890

FIVE MARKS.

1. Hard crowned, Plume, or Unicorn.
2. Maker's Mark.
3. Date Letter.
4. Hibernia.
5. Queen's Head, until 1890

DUBLIN ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

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HALL MARKS ON PLATE.

CYCLE 12.
BLACK LETTER CAPITALS.

VICTORIA, EDWARD VII. & GEORGE V.

CYCLE 13.
GAELIC

GEORGE V.

	1896-7	1897-8	1898-9	1899-0	1900-1	Edward VII 1901-2	1902-3	1903-4	1904-5	1905-6	1906-7	1907-8	1908-9	1909-10	George V. 1910-1	1911-2	1912-3	1913-4	1914-5	1915-6	1916-7	1917-8	1918-9	1919-20	1920-1	1921-2	1922-3	1923-4	
A																A	D	C	Q	R	S	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
B																B	C	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
C																C	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	
D																D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	
E																E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	
F																F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	
G																G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	
H																H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	
I																I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	
J																J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	
K																K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	
L																L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	
M																M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	
N																N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
O																O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z		
P																P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z			
Q																Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
R																R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z					
S																S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z						
T																T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z							
U																U	V	W	X	Y	Z								
V																V	W	X	Y	Z									
W																W	X	Y	Z										
X																X	Y	Z											
Y																Y	Z												
Z																Z													

FOUR MARKS.

1. Harp crowned, Plume, or Unicorn.
2. Maker's Mark.
3. Date Letter.
4. Hibernia.

EXAMPLES.



Two Tankards presented in 1680 to the Guild of St. John. Date 1680-1. — *Merchant Taylors' Company.* And a Box with scroll feet.—*Dublin Exhibition.*



Piece of Plate. Date 1725-6. — *Messrs. Hancock.*



Mace, dated 1728. The top embossed with the royal arms. — *Messrs. Hancock.*



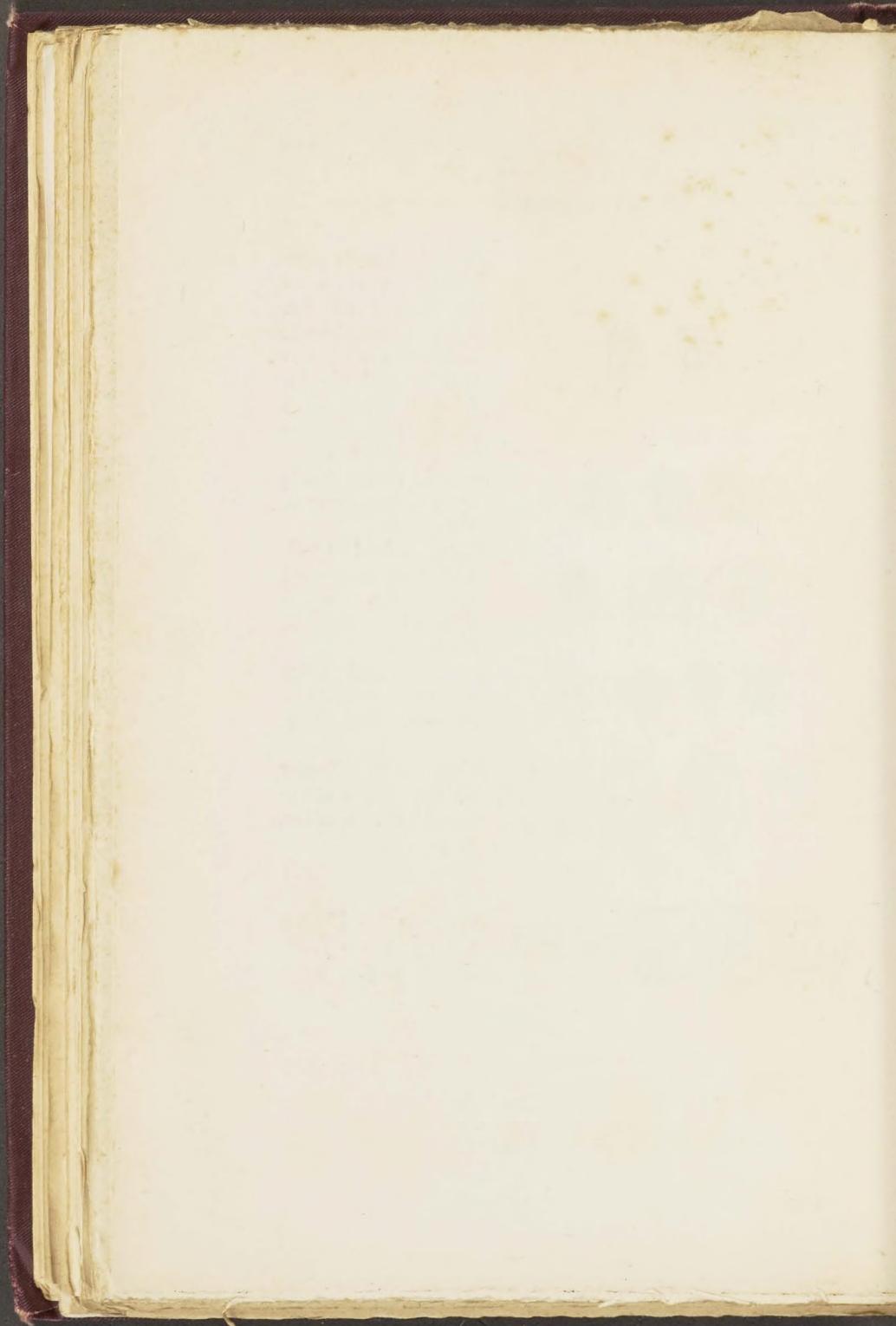
Two-handled Cup. Date 1739-0.—*Messrs. Hancock.*



Silver gilt Sugar Sifter. Date 1785-6.—*J. H. Walter, Esq.*



Spoon. Date 1803-4. — *J. P. Stott, Esq.*



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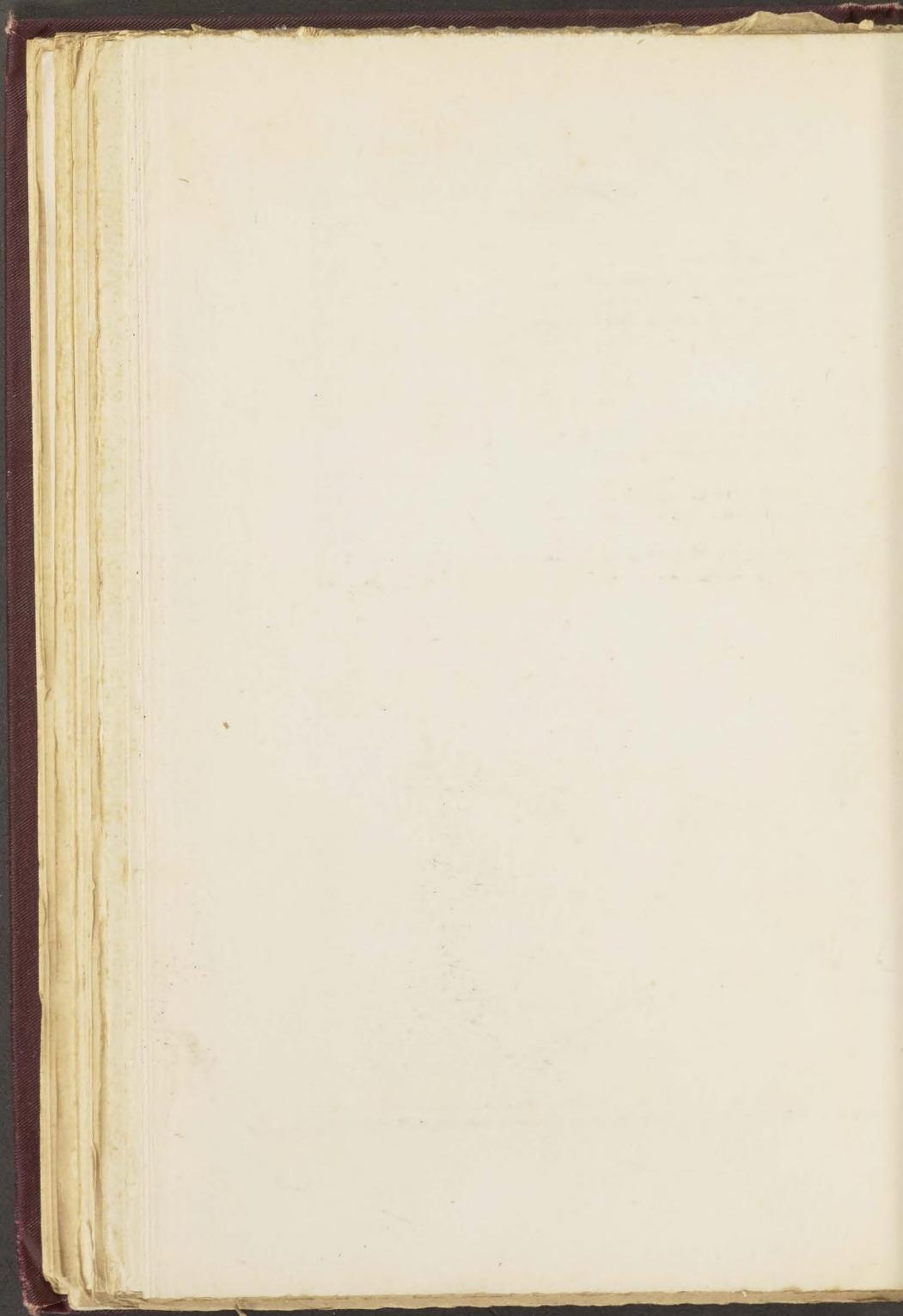
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